# OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

January 2004 For United States of America *km*-E Us 1/04 Vol. 47, No. 1

*Dear Kingdom Publishers:*

Like the early Christians, we today regularly come together at assemblies where "quite a crowd" has gathered. (Acts 11:26) Since 1965, we have been using Assembly Halls for assemblies and conventions where suitable rented facilities are not available. Presently, there are 40 Assembly Halls in the United States branch. A new one is near completion in California, and plans are progressing for another in Georgia. More are needed, and arrangements for these are under way.

During these difficult economic times, the cost of Assembly Hall construction and operation is constantly rising. Thus, the Governing Body has 'calculated the expense' and directed that a standard Assembly Hall design be developed. (Luke 14:28) The aim is to build modest-sized halls that utilize simpler, less costly finishings. This will allow projects to move along more quickly with volunteer help. At the same time, efforts will be made to ensure that the buildings are practical, comfortable, and attractive in appearance. Our prayer is that standardizing Assembly Hall design will save money, time, and labor, allowing us to give more attention to the all-important preaching work. —Matt. 24:14.

It is a pleasure for us to be working together with you in Jehovah's service. We send our warm Christian love to all of you.

Your brothers,
*U. S. Branch Office*

## The Excelling Value of Divine Wisdom

[1] Some people think that Jehovah's Witnesses should focus their efforts more directly on helping to alleviate the problems facing mankind today. Such persons fail to see the excelling value of our Bible educational work. It is as the apostle Paul wrote: "The speech about the torture stake is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is God's power." (1 Cor. 1:18) Indeed, we know that the Christian ministry is the most important work being done on earth today.

[2] **A Better Life Now:** Human efforts to solve mankind's problems have yielded very limited results. Legislation has not stopped the proliferation of crime. Peace treaties and peacekeeping forces have not brought an end to war. Social programs have failed to eradicate poverty. (Ps. 146:3, 4; Jer. 8:9) In contrast, the Kingdom message has transformed the lives of millions by helping them to put on a new personality that is acceptable to God. (Rom. 12:2; Col. 3:9, 10) In so doing, they enjoy an improved quality of life right now.—1 Tim. 4:8.

[3] **A Bright Future:** In addition to helping us meet the immediate challenges of life, divine wisdom enables us to plan effectively for the future. (Ps. 119:105) It spares us the futility of trying to reform the present system of things. (Eccl. 1:15; Rom. 8:20) How grateful we are that we are not squandering our lives in pursuit of goals that are only an illusion! Rather, we center our efforts on Jehovah's sure promise of "new heavens and a new earth" in which righteousness will dwell. When Jehovah's day of judgment arrives, it will be unmistakably clear that those who relied on divine wisdom made the right choice.—2 Pet. 3:10-13; Ps. 37:34.

[4] Although divine wisdom may seem impractical to those steeped in "the wisdom of this system of things," it is in reality the only practical course to follow. (1 Cor. 1:21; 2:6-8) Hence, we continue to proclaim throughout the earth the message that originates with God, who is "wise alone."—Rom. 16:27.

1. How do many people view the Christian ministry of Jehovah's Witnesses?

2. (a) What has been the fruitage of human efforts to solve mankind's problems? (b) What results has the Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making work produced?

3. In what ways have you personally benefited from divine wisdom?

4. What might you say to help people in your territory see the excelling value of the wisdom contained in God's Word?

## SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

### Week Starting January 12

Song 224

**10 min:** Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 4, demonstrate how to present the January 15 *Watchtower* and the January 22 *Awake!* In each case, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured. After each demonstration, highlight some good aspects of the presentation.

**15 min:** "The Excelling Value of Divine Wisdom."* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures.

**20 min:** New Publications We Rejoiced to Receive! Audience discussion. We were delighted to receive two new releases at the "Give God Glory" District Convention. *"See the Good Land"* is unlike any other publication in our library. Each two-page spread presents a revealing look at a different aspect of the Promised Land. Point out some of the details appearing on various maps. Suggest practical ways this publication can be used. *Learn From the Great Teacher* will enhance the spiritual well-being of our children. Mention some of the timely subjects covered, showing how parents and young ones can benefit. Invite audience to comment on how they are putting these new publications to good use.

Song 186 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting January 19

Song 95

**5 min:** Local announcements.

**10 min:** Question Box. Talk by an elder.

**15 min:** Local needs.

**15 min:** Filling the Need for Assembly Halls. Talk and audience discussion based on the *Proclaimers* book, pages 328-32. Conclude by reading the letter from the branch office that appears on the front page of this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry,* and highlight the benefits of the new arrangement.

Song 73 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting January 26

Song 158

**12 min:** Local announcements. Accounts report. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for January. Using the suggestions on page 4, demonstrate how to present the February 1 *Watchtower* and the February 8 *Awake!* In each case, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured. In one of the presentations, demonstrate how you might offer the magazines to a neighbor.

**15 min:** Apply God's Word in Your Life Each Day. Talk and audience discussion. Encourage all to make good use of *Examining the Scriptures Daily—2004.* Discuss comments from the foreword, pages 3-4. Ask the audience what they personally find to be the best time to consider the daily text. Discuss the text and comments for the day with the congregation. Invite the audience to comment on how we can make practical application of the information. Encourage all to consider briefly how they can apply the material when they discuss the text each day.

**18 min:** Cultivating Friendships With Fellow Believers. (Prov. 18:24; 27:9) Talk and audience discussion based on the December 1, 2000, *Watchtower,* pages 22-3. One of the blessings of true worship is the opportunity to make real friends. Our companionship at meetings, in field service, and on other occasions provides a rich source of encouragement. How can we cultivate friendships with others in the congregation? Review the box "Six Steps to a Lasting Friendship," and invite the audience to comment on how each point can be applied in our dealings with our brothers.

Song 177 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting February 2

Song 204

**10 min:** Local announcements. Mention literature offer for February. Review presentations for offering *Draw Close to Jehovah* in the January 2003 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 3.

**20 min:** "Keep Strict Watch on Your Use of Time."* Invite audience to comment on what they do to keep nonessential activities from infringing on spiritual pursuits.

**15 min:** Imitate Paul as He Did Christ. (1 Cor. 11:1) Audience discussion. Like Jesus, Paul took advantage of opportunities to witness to "those who happened to be on hand." (Acts 17:17) What opportunities are there to do this in our territory? Who are "on hand" when we go shopping, are at work or school, or take public transportation? Whom might we come in contact with when at home? Invite audience to relate experiences that they have had in witnessing to people they met during everyday activities.

Song 151 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

### OCTOBER SERVICE REPORT

| Number of: | | Av. Hrs. | Av. Mags. | Av. R.V. | Av. Bi.St. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sp'l Pios. | **186** | **105.9** | **94.9** | **46.2** | **4.2** |
| Pios. | **94,550** | **68.6** | **46.6** | **21.4** | **2.0** |
| Aux. Pios. | **24,600** | **50.6** | **38.3** | **13.7** | **1.0** |
| Pubs. | **870,300** | **9.4** | **8.4** | **3.6** | **0.4** |
| TOTAL | **989,636** | | Baptized: **2,650** | | |

We are happy to report a new peak in regular pioneers! The total of 94,550 regular pioneers reporting is an increase of 28 over the previous peak of 94,522 in December 1999.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **January:** Any book published prior to 1988 that the congregation may have in stock. If you do not have any of these in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus of older publications on hand that you can use. Congregations that do not have older books may offer *Mankind's Search for God.* **February:** *Draw Close to Jehovah.* If this publication is not available, you may use the *Creation* book (large or small size) or the *Revelation Climax* book as an alternative offer. **March:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* A special effort will be made to start home Bible studies. If people already have this publication, *Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy!* may be offered. **April:** Feature individual copies of both *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* When making return visits on interested people, include those who attend the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the organization. Concentrate on placing the *Worship God* book. Every effort should be made to start a home Bible study, especially if some individuals have already studied the *Knowledge* book and the *Require* brochure.

■ Starting in February, and no later than March 7, the new public talk for circuit overseers will be "Whose Values Do You Cherish?"

■ Congregations should make convenient arrangements to observe the Memorial this year on Sunday, April 4, after sundown. Although the talk may start earlier, the passing of the emblems *should not begin until after sundown.* Check with local sources to determine when sundown occurs in your area. Since no meetings other than those for field service are to be held on that day, appropriate adjustments should be made for the *Watchtower* Study to be conducted at another time. Circuit overseers will need to adjust their meeting schedule for the week according to local circumstances. Although it is desirable for each congregation to hold its own Memorial observance, this may not always be possible. Where a number of congregations normally use the same Kingdom Hall, perhaps one or more congregations can obtain the use of another facility for that evening. Where possible, we would suggest a minimum of 40 minutes between the programs so that all may benefit fully from the occasion. Consideration should also be given to traffic conditions and parking, including the dropping off and picking up of passengers. The body of elders should decide what arrangements would be best locally.

■ For those who wish to make donations to the worldwide work electronically, a set of instructions is available to explain this arrangement. For further information, call 718-560-5000 or write to Watch Tower, Office of the Secretary and Treasurer, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, New York 11201-2483.

## QUESTION BOX

■ How can we ensure proper timing of congregation meetings?

Time moves swiftly when we are sharing something good with friends. For this reason, it can be a challenge to handle meeting parts within the allotted time. What can help?

*Start on time.* When the entire congregation meets, it may be helpful to invite the audience to take their seats a minute or two beforehand so that the meeting can begin at the designated time in an orderly way. (Eccl. 3:1) Meetings involving smaller groups, such as meetings for field service, should not be delayed to wait for those who may arrive late.

*Prepare thoroughly.* A key to good timing is advance preparation. Get the objective of the assignment clearly in mind. Identify the main points, and make these stand out. Avoid getting sidetracked by minor details. Keep the presentation simple. If the part includes demonstrations or interviews, rehearse them in advance. To the extent possible, time your part while practicing it out loud.

*Apportion your material.* Whether your assignment is a talk or an audience discussion, you may find it helpful to divide the material into sections. Decide how much time to spend on each section, and indicate this in the margin of your notes. Then monitor your timing during the presentation. In an audience discussion, avoid the pitfall of entertaining so many comments in the introductory portion that you have to rush through weightier material that appears later. *Watchtower* Study conductors should allow sufficient time to consider the review box at the end. They should also be careful not to infringe on the time allotted for the concluding song and prayer.

*Conclude on time.* If a meeting consists of several parts, such as the Service Meeting, each speaker should be conscious of when his part is to begin and end. What can be done if the meeting is running behind schedule? One or more of the brothers may be able to make up the time by focusing on main points and eliminating some details. The ability to do this is one mark of a skilled teacher.

As an audience, we can assist the brother conducting by keeping our expressions brief and to the point. All of us, therefore, can contribute to meetings that take place "decently and by arrangement." —1 Cor. 14:40.

# Keep Strict Watch on Your Use of Time

[1] In this age of time- and labor-saving devices, many find themselves with seemingly more things to do and less time in which to do them. Do you find it challenging to maintain a good spiritual routine? Do you wish you had more time for the ministry? How can we make the best use of our time?—Ps. 90:12; Phil. 1:9-11.

[2] **Identify Time Wasters:** All of us should periodically examine how we use our time. The Bible urges: "Keep strict watch that how you walk is not as unwise but as wise persons, buying out the opportune time for yourselves, because the days are wicked." (Eph. 5:15, 16) Consider the challenges presented by advances in information technology. While computers and other electronic devices have legitimate uses, they can become a snare if we fail to keep strict watch on our use of time. —1 Cor. 7:29, 31.

[3] Each of us should ask himself: 'Do I spend time each day reading or answering E-mail messages that are little more than an annoyance? Am I often engaged in making telephone calls or sending text messages about trivial matters? (1 Tim. 5:13) Do I find myself browsing the Internet without any purpose or aimlessly switching from channel to channel when watching television? Has a preoccupation with electronic games begun to infringe on my study of God's Word?' Such pursuits can subtly rob us of our spirituality.—Prov. 12:11.

1. What challenge do people everywhere face today?
2, 3. What challenge does information technology present, and how can each of us make a self-examination?

[4] **Using Time Wisely:** Electronic devices tend to commandeer both our time and our attention. A youth who was heavily into computer games admitted: "Sometimes when I had played before going out in the ministry or to a Christian meeting, I found it very difficult to concentrate. I was almost always thinking about how I would solve a certain game problem after getting home. My personal study and regular Bible reading suffered. My joy in serving God began to decline." Recognizing that he needed to make changes, he deleted all his computer games. "That was really tough," he recalls. "I was more attached to games than I had thought. But I also experienced a great feeling of victory because I knew that I had done it for my own good."—Matt. 5: 29, 30.

[5] It may be necessary to take such measures if there are areas in which you need to make adjustments. Could you buy out a half hour each day from nonessential activities? That is about how much time it would take to read the entire Bible in one year. How spiritually rewarding that would be! (Ps. 19:7-11; 119:97-100) Set definite times for Bible reading, meeting preparation, and the field ministry. (1 Cor. 15:58) Doing this will help you to keep time wasters in check and will help you to "go on perceiving what the will of Jehovah is." —Eph. 5:17.

4. What adjustment did one youth make, and why?
5. How can we buy out time for spiritual pursuits, and how do we benefit from doing so?

## What to Say About the Magazines

### THE WATCHTOWER Jan. 15

"Because broken promises are so common nowadays, many find it difficult to place their confidence in anyone. Do you think there is anyone whose promises we can trust? [Allow for response. Then read Joshua 23:14.] This magazine shows how we can build confidence in God's promises recorded in the Bible."

### Awake! Jan. 22

"This is what the personal name of God looks like in the Hebrew language. [Show cover.] Some people feel strongly that this name should never be spoken aloud. Others use it freely. This issue of *Awake!* examines this controversy. It also discusses how we can come to know God by name." Read Psalm 83:18.

### THE WATCHTOWER Feb. 1

"Most of us try to take care of our physical health. However, recent studies suggest that our well-being is also affected by our spirituality. Do you think that this is possible? [Allow for response. Then read Matthew 5:3.] This issue of *The Watchtower* discusses how we can satisfy our spiritual need."

### Awake! Feb. 8

"Many today lead busy lives and could use more rest. Perhaps you will agree with these words written over 3,000 years ago. [Read Ecclesiastes 4:6. Then allow for response.] This issue of *Awake!* presents helpful information on how to recognize and cope with the problem of sleep debt."

# OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

February 2004 For United States of America *km*-E Us 2/04 Vol. 47, No. 2

## A Work Backed by God

[1] Among God's servants today, few possess outstanding education, wealth, or prominence in the present system of things. For that reason, some people dismiss our ministry as of little account. (Isa. 53:3) However, the Bible educational work that we do has brought comfort and hope to millions of people around the globe. How have ordinary people achieved such outstanding results? Only with God's backing. (Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 1:8) "God chose the weak things of the world," explained the apostle Paul, "that he might put the strong things to shame."—1 Cor. 1:26-29.

[2] The apostles and other first-century Christians were largely "unlettered and ordinary." (Acts 4:13) Yet, they boldly pursued their commission to preach the good news, and Jehovah blessed their efforts. Despite obstacles and opposition, 'the word of Jehovah kept growing and prevailing in a mighty way.' Nothing could stop the work because it was backed by God. (Acts 5:38, 39; 19:20) The same has been true in modern times. Not even determined opposition by powerful rulers has been able to keep the good news from prevailing and growing.—Isa. 54:17.

[3] **All Credit to God:** Does our favored position as God's ministers give us reason to boast in ourselves? Not at all. Referring to the Christian ministry, Paul wrote: "We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the power beyond what is normal may be God's and not that out of ourselves." (2 Cor. 4:7) Paul appreciated that he was able to carry out his ministry only in the strength that God supplied.—Eph. 6:19, 20; Phil. 4:13.

[4] We likewise recognize that it is only because we have "obtained the help that is from God" that the preaching work is being accomplished. (Acts 26:22) By such worldwide proclamation, Jehovah is using us in a mighty way to send a tremor through the nations—a portent of the judgmental shattering soon to come. (Hag. 2:7) How privileged we are to be "God's fellow workers" in the grand spiritual harvest!—1 Cor. 3:6-9.

## Regular Meeting Attendance —A Priority

[1] Christian families give priority to attending congregation meetings regularly. But the demands of life today can present a challenge. Are household duties, secular work, or schoolwork starting to encroach on time that has been set aside for the worship of Jehovah? Looking at things from Jehovah's standpoint will help us to maintain our priorities. —1 Sam. 24:6; 26:11.

[2] By gathering wood on the Sabbath, one Israelite man deliberately failed to consider Jehovah's point of view. He may have reasoned that he was providing for his family or that it was just a small thing. By means of the judgment rendered, however, Jehovah showed that pursuing mundane activities during times designated for worship is a serious matter. —Num. 15:32-36.

[3] **Meeting the Challenge:** For many it is a battle to keep secular work from interfering with meeting attendance. Some have met this challenge by speaking to their employer, trading shifts with workmates, seeking a more suitable job, or simplifying their life-style. Assuredly, such sacrifices in behalf of true worship are well-pleasing to God.—Heb. 13:16.

[4] Schoolwork can also pose a challenge. "I do some of my schoolwork before the meetings and the rest after I come home," said one youth. If all assigned homework cannot be completed on meeting nights, some parents have explained to teachers that attendance at Christian meetings is a priority for their family.

[5] Cooperation and good planning are keys to accomplishing household chores in preparation for attending meetings on time as a family. (Prov. 20:18) Even younger children can be taught to be dressed and ready to leave for the meeting at a specified time. By their example, parents can impress upon their children the importance of meetings.—Prov. 20:7.

[6] As the pressures of the present system of things increase, it is vital that we attend congregation meetings regularly. May we continue to view matters from Jehovah's standpoint and make regular meeting attendance a priority.—Heb. 10:24, 25.

## SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

### Week Starting February 9

Song 225

**10 min:** Local announcements. Using the suggestions on page 8, demonstrate how to present the February 15 *Watchtower* and the February 22 *Awake!* In each case, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured. In one of the presentations, demonstrate how to handle the conversation stopper "I have my own religion."—See *Reasoning* book, pages 18-19.

**10 min:** "Benefit From Studying *Draw Close to Jehovah.*" A talk by a Congregation Book Study overseer based on the article. When considering paragraph 2, draw attention to the study schedule. When considering paragraph 3, read and discuss paragraph 23 on page 25 of the publication.

**25 min:** "Keep Telling About Jehovah's Wonderful Works."* (Paragraphs 1-10) To be handled by the service overseer. Use the questions that are provided. Build enthusiasm for increased field service activity during the Memorial season.

Song 90 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting February 16

Song 41

**10 min:** Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

**15 min:** "A Work Backed by God."* Include comments on the *Proclaimers* book, pages 547-8.

**20 min:** "Keep Telling About Jehovah's Wonderful Works."* (Paragraphs 11-17) Use the questions that are provided. Include a brief demonstration of a publisher inviting a return visit to the Memorial.

Song 75 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting February 23

Song 118

**10 min:** Local announcements. Accounts report. Using the suggestions on page 8, demonstrate how to present the March 1 *Watchtower* and the March 8 *Awake!* In each case, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured. At the conclusion of one of the presentations, raise a thought-provoking question that can be answered on the next visit using the *Require* brochure.

**15 min:** "Regular Meeting Attendance—A Priority."* Arrange in advance for one or two to comment on the measures they have taken to be present at each congregation meeting.

**20 min:** Praise Jehovah "in the Middle of the Congregation." Audience discussion based on September 1, 2003, *Watchtower,* pages 19-22. (1) How does Psalm 22:22, 25 highlight our reason for commenting at meetings? (2) Why is prayer helpful? (3) Why is preparation needed? (4) What goal should all of us have at meetings? (5) Why is our being seated toward the front helpful? (6) Why is it important to listen to what others say? (7) How can we answer in our own words? (8) How can we encourage others with our comments? (9) What responsibility rests on the conductor?

Song 81 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting March 1

Song 156

**10 min:** Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for February. Mention literature offer for March, and briefly review one of the suggested presentations from the January 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert.

**15 min:** Local needs.

**20 min:** "We Can Do What Jehovah Asks."* Use the questions that are provided. As time permits, highlight the cited scriptures.

Song 98 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

### NOVEMBER SERVICE REPORT

| Number of: | | Av. Hrs. | Av. Mags. | Av. R.V. | Av. Bi.St. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sp'l Pios. | **202** | **105.3** | **90.0** | **44.6** | **4.3** |
| Pios. | **92,570** | **64.3** | **41.9** | **20.8** | **2.0** |
| Aux. Pios. | **21,838** | **49.1** | **35.7** | **13.3** | **1.1** |
| Pubs. | **867,299** | **9.4** | **8.3** | **3.6** | **0.4** |
| TOTAL | **981,909** | | Baptized: **2,715** | | |

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# Keep Telling About Jehovah's Wonderful Works

¹ No one can compare to our great God, Jehovah! David wrote: "Many things you yourself have done, O Jehovah my God, even your wonderful works and your thoughts toward us; there is none to be compared to you." (Ps. 40:5) Jehovah's wonderful works include the creation of the universe, the Messianic Kingdom, acts of loving-kindness toward his people, and the worldwide preaching campaign. (Ps. 17:7, 8; 139:14; Dan. 2:44; Matt. 24:14) Love for Jehovah and appreciation for all that he has done move us to tell others about him. (Ps. 145:5-7) During March, April, and May, we will have opportunity to do this more fully.

² **As an Auxiliary Pioneer:** Can you arrange your schedule to spend 50 hours in the ministry during one or more of these months of special activity? It will surely be worth any adjustments you make in your routine. (Eph. 5:16) Many have found that auxiliary pioneering helps them to improve the quality of their ministry. They become more comfortable at the door and make greater use of the Bible. Spending more time in the ministry makes it easier to follow up any interest they find, and some who had not previously conducted a Bible study have started one while auxiliary pioneering. Because auxiliary pioneering involves expending ourselves in behalf of others, it is a joyful activity.—Acts 20:35.

³ Do not be quick to conclude that your circumstances do not allow you to have a share. One elder who auxiliary pioneered last year has two children and a full-time job. How did this busy brother do it? Since he works during the week, he planned long days in service on the weekends, starting with street witnessing at 7:00 a.m. on Saturdays. Several in the congregation who had similar circumstances also pioneered, and they supported and encouraged one another. In another congregation, a 99-year-old sister decided to pioneer in May after being invited by her daughter to join her. Others in the congregation assisted this elderly sister to go from door to door and on Bible studies by pushing her wheelchair. She also engaged in telephone witnessing, street witnessing, and letter writing. She is convinced that this was done, not in her own strength, but only with Jehovah's help.—Isa. 40:29-31.

⁴ Try writing out a schedule that best fits your circumstances. The sample schedules in this issue may be helpful. Do you work full-time or go to school? A schedule that utilizes primarily the weekends may be the most practical for you. If you have health problems and your energy does not allow for long days in the ministry, a schedule that calls for spending a little time each day may be best. Talk with others about your desire to auxiliary pioneer. Perhaps they will also make it their goal.

⁵ **Ways That Youths Can Share:** Jehovah is pleased when young ones tell about his wonderful works. (Ps. 71:17; Matt. 21:16) If you are young and are baptized, perhaps you can auxiliary pioneer during a month that includes a school vacation. If you cannot serve as an auxiliary pioneer, can you set specific goals to increase your share and improve the quality of your ministry during these months? If you have been sharing in the ministry with your parents but are not yet an unbaptized publisher, now would be a good time to try to qualify. You need not feel that you must be an expert at answering Bible questions or that you have to know as much as baptized adults. Do you understand basic Bible teachings? Do you adhere to the Bible's moral standards? Do you want to be identified as one of Jehovah's Witnesses? Then talk with your parents about this. They can arrange to approach the elders with you to see if you meet the requirements. —See the *Our Ministry* book, pages 98-9.

⁶ **Helping Others to Preach:** Progressive Bible students may qualify to join us as publishers during the upcoming months of special

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1. What are some of Jehovah's wonderful works that you particularly appreciate?
2. How do we personally benefit by auxiliary pioneering?
3. How have some been able to auxiliary pioneer even with challenging circumstances?
4. What factors might we consider when making a schedule to auxiliary pioneer?
5. What goals can youths set for March, April, and May?
6. How can we help Bible students to become publishers of the good news?

activity. If you have a Bible student who is making good progress, enlist the help of your book study overseer or the service overseer. One of them can join you on the study to evaluate the student's progress. If the student qualifies and has the desire to become a publisher, the presiding overseer can arrange for two elders to meet with you and the student. (See *The Watchtower,* November 15, 1988, page 17.) Once the student is approved, begin training him in the ministry right away.

7 Book study overseers will want to give special attention to any who are inactive or irregular in their group. Extend a personal invitation to them to work with you in the ministry. If they have been inactive for a long time, it is advisable that two elders first speak with them to see if they qualify. (See the November 2000 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box.) The zeal of the congregation during these months of special activity may stimulate them to make the ministry a regular feature of their lives once again.

8 **Prepare Now for Increased Activity:** Elders, begin now to build up enthusiasm in the congregation for auxiliary pioneering. You can do much by your positive comments and good example. (1 Pet. 5:3) What was the congregation's previous peak of auxiliary pioneers? Can it be exceeded this year? Book study overseers and their assistants should seek ways to encourage all in the group to increase their activity. Service overseers may schedule additional meetings for field service. Inform the congregation in advance what is arranged. Make sure that capable publishers are assigned to take the lead and that meetings for service start and conclude on time. (See the September 2001 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box.) The service overseer should also arrange for there to be sufficient territory, magazines, and literature.

9 Last year the elders of one congregation started enthusiastically and well in advance to encourage auxiliary pioneering, with several of them submitting applications. They arranged additional meetings for field service—one at 5:30 a.m. for street witnessing, another at 3:00 p.m. for those getting out of school, and a third at 6:00 p.m. for those getting off work. In addition, three meetings for field service were arranged on Saturdays. The congregation responded with 66 enrolling as auxiliary pioneers in April!

10 Why not set aside time during your next family study to set realistic goals for the coming months? With good cooperation and planning, some or all in the family may be able to auxiliary pioneer. If that is not possible, set goals to increase your activity by lengthening your usual service periods or by going out on additional occasions. Make it a matter of prayer as a family. You can be confident that Jehovah will bless your efforts.—1 John 3:22.

11 **God's Most Wonderful Work:** Jehovah's greatest expression of love is the gift of his Son as a ransom in our behalf. (1 John 4:9, 10) The ransom sacrifice provides the legal basis for redeeming mankind from sin and death. (Rom. 3:23, 24) Jesus' shed blood validated the new covenant, making it possible for imperfect humans to be adopted as God's sons with the prospect of ruling in the heavenly Kingdom. (Jer. 31:31-34; Mark 14:24) Most important, Jesus' course of perfect obedience sanctified Jehovah's name. (Deut. 32:4; Prov. 27:11) On Sunday, April 4, after sundown, the Memorial of Christ's death will be commemorated around the world.

12 Observance of the Lord's Evening Meal magnifies Jehovah's wonderful works. The discourse builds appreciation for what Jehovah did in providing the ransom. Interested ones in attendance will be able to observe other wonderful works of God. They will be able to see the unity and warm love Jehovah has taught his people to display. (Eph. 4:16, 22-24; Jas. 3:17, 18) Attendance on this important occasion can have a real impact on a person's thinking, so we want as many as possible to be present.—2 Cor. 5:14, 15.

13 **Inviting Others to Attend:** Begin preparing right away by making a list of those to invite. Your list should include unbelieving fam-

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7. How might irregular and inactive publishers be assisted?

8, 9. What can the elders do to build enthusiasm for the special activity?

10. How can families prepare to increase their activity?

11. (a) What wonderful things did Christ's sacrifice accomplish? (b) What is the time and location of the local Memorial observance?

12. How can attending the observance of the Lord's Evening Meal benefit interested ones?

13, 14. Whom should we invite to the Memorial, and how?

ily members, neighbors, acquaintances from work or school, past and present Bible students, and all your return visits. Book study overseers should include on their list any inactive publishers.

[14] Use the printed Memorial invitations, and type or neatly write on them the time and location of the Memorial. Or you may wish to use the invitation that appears on the back cover of the March 15, 2004, *Watchtower* or the March 22, 2004, *Awake!* As April 4 draws closer, give those on your list a reminder, either in person or over the telephone.

[15] **At the Memorial:** Try to arrive early on the night of the Memorial. Demonstrate hospitality by warmly greeting new ones. (Rom. 12:13) You have a special responsibility toward the guests you invite. Make them feel welcome, and introduce them to others from the congregation. Perhaps you can help them find a seat near you. And if any do not have a Bible or a songbook, arrange for them to look on with you or someone else. After the observance, be available to answer any questions they may have. If some are there for the first time, ask whether they would like to learn more about God's Word and purpose. Offer to conduct a home Bible study with them.

[16] **Continue Assisting Those Who Attended:** In the weeks following the Memorial, those who attended may need further assistance. This includes those who once regularly attended meetings but who now have only limited association with the congregation. The elders will be alert to see that such ones are not overlooked, seeking to determine why they stopped making spiritual progress. Impress on them the urgency of the times. (1 Pet. 4:7) Help all to see the benefit of obeying the Scriptural exhortation to gather together regularly with God's people.—Heb. 10:24, 25.

## Can You Auxiliary Pioneer Using One of These Schedules?

| **March** | Su | M* | Tu* | W* | Th | F | Sa | Month Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Each Day | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 51 |
| Two Days | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 50 |
| Weekends Only | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 52 |
| Weekends and Two Weekdays | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 50 |

| **April** | Su | M | Tu | W | Th* | F* | Sa | Month Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Each Day | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 5 | 50 |
| Two Days | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 50 |
| Weekends Only | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 52 |
| Weekends and Two Weekdays | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 50 |

| **May** | Su* | M* | Tu | W | Th | F | Sa* | Month Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Each Day | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 51 |
| Two Days | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 50 |
| Weekends Only | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 50 |
| Weekends and Two Weekdays | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 51 |

* **Five in the month**

[17] Jehovah's works are too wonderful for us to grasp fully even if we live forever. (Job 42:2, 3; Eccl. 3:11) Therefore, we will never run out of things for which to praise him. This Memorial season we can demonstrate our appreciation for Jehovah's wonderful works by making a special effort to expand our ministry.

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15. How can we demonstrate hospitality on the night of the Memorial?
16. What can be done to help those who attended to make spiritual progress?
17. Why should we *keep* telling about Jehovah's wonderful works?

# Benefit From Studying *Draw Close to Jehovah*

1 At the “Zealous Kingdom Proclaimers” District Convention, we were thrilled to receive the book *Draw Close to Jehovah.* Many read the book immediately. Many more were no doubt moved to do so by the yeartext for 2003: “Draw close to God, and he will draw close to you.”—Jas. 4:8.

2 In March we will begin our consideration of *Draw Close to Jehovah* at the Congregation Book Study. How may we get the most from our study? Preparation is essential. Two weeks will be devoted to each chapter, with a relatively small number of paragraphs scheduled for study each week. This will allow ample time for your heartfelt comments based on your study of and meditation on the material. Additionally, fewer paragraphs will be considered during the weeks in which the concluding portion of a chapter is reviewed, to allow time to use a special feature of the book.

3 Starting with chapter 2, a box entitled “Questions for Meditation” appears near the end of each chapter. After considering the last paragraph in the chapter, the book study overseer will have the group discuss the box. He will draw out the members of the group, seeking the fine fruitage of their meditation on the Scriptures. (Prov. 20:5) In addition to the questions provided in the box, he may at times pose questions such as the following: “What does this information tell you about Jehovah? How does it affect your life? How can you use it to help others?” His goal will be to draw out heartfelt comments, not to quiz the group regarding relatively minor details.

4 *Draw Close to Jehovah* is unique. Although all the publications of “the faithful and discreet slave” glorify Jehovah, this book is devoted entirely to a discussion of Jehovah’s qualities. (Matt. 24:45-47) What a thrilling opportunity lies before us! We will richly benefit from an in-depth study of Jehovah’s personality. May the study help us to draw closer to our heavenly Father, and may we become more effective in helping others to do the same.

## Draw Close to Jehovah

### Study Schedule for 2004

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Mar. | 15: | pp. 3, 7-11* |
| | 22: | pp. 11*-15 |
| | 29: | pp. 16-21* |
| Apr. | 5: | pp. 21*-5 and box |
| | 12: | pp. 26-31* |
| | 19: | pp. 31*-5 and box |
| | 26: | pp. 37-43* |
| May | 3: | pp. 43*-6 and box |
| | 10: | pp. 47-52, par. 12 |
| | 17: | p. 53, par. 13–p. 56 and box |
| | 24: | pp. 57-63* |
| | 31: | pp. 63*-6 and box |
| June | 7: | pp. 67-72* |
| | 14: | pp. 72*-6 and box |
| | 21: | pp. 77-81, par. 13 |
| | 28: | p. 82, par. 14–p. 86 and box |
| July | 5: | pp. 87-93* |
| | 12: | pp. 93*-6 and box |
| | 19: | pp. 97-102* |
| | 26: | pp. 102*-6 and box |
| Aug. | 2: | pp. 108-13, par. 14 |
| | 9: | p. 114, par. 15–p. 117 and box |
| | 16: | pp. 118-23* |
| | 23: | pp. 123*-7 and box |
| | 30: | pp. 128-33* |
| Sept. | 6: | pp. 133*-7 and box |
| | 13: | pp. 138-43* |
| | 20: | pp. 143*-7 and box |
| | 27: | pp. 148-53 |
| Oct. | 4: | pp. 154*-7 and box |
| | 11: | pp. 158-62, par. 13 |
| | 18: | p. 162, par. 14–p. 167 and box |
| | 25: | pp. 169-75* |
| Nov. | 1: | pp. 175*-8 and box |
| | 8: | pp. 179-85* |
| | 15: | pp. 185*-8 and box |
| | 22: | pp. 189-95* |
| | 29: | pp. 195*-8 and box |
| Dec. | 6: | pp. 199-203* |
| | 13: | pp. 203*-8 and box |
| | 20: | pp. 209-14, par. 11 |
| | 27: | p. 214, par. 12–p. 218 and box |

### Study Schedule for 2005

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Jan. | 3: | pp. 219-24 |
| | 10: | pp. 225*-8 and box |
| | 17: | pp. 231-6* |
| | 24: | pp. 236*-9 and box |
| | 31: | pp. 240-5, par. 13 |
| Feb. | 7: | p. 246, par. 14–p. 249 and box |
| | 14: | pp. 250-5* |
| | 21: | pp. 255*-9 and box |
| | 28: | pp. 260-5* |
| Mar. | 7: | pp. 265*-9 and box |
| | 14: | pp. 270-5* |
| | 21: | pp. 275*-9 and box |
| | 28: | pp. 280-4 |
| Apr. | 4: | pp. 285*-9 and box |
| | 11: | pp. 290-5, par. 12 |
| | 18: | p. 296, par. 13–p. 299 and box |
| | 25: | pp. 300-5* |
| May | 2: | pp. 305*-9 and box |
| | 9: | pp. 310-14* |
| | 16: | pp. 314*-19 and box |

* To or from subheading.

Discuss the box “Questions for Meditation” after considering the last paragraph in chapter.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **February:** *Draw Close to Jehovah.* If this publication is not available, you may use the *Creation* book (large or small size) or the *Revelation Climax* book as an alternative offer. **March:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* A special effort will be made to start home Bible studies. If people already have this publication, *Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy!* may be offered. **April and May:** Feature individual copies of both *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* When making return visits on interested people, which may include those who attend the Memorial and/or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the organization, concentrate on placing the *Worship God* book. Every effort should be made to start a home Bible study, especially if some individuals have already studied the *Knowledge* book and the *Require* brochure.

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on March 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. When this has been done, make an announcement to the congregation after the next accounts report is read. Read any acknowledgment of contributions the congregation has made to the worldwide work and to any other fund sponsored by the organization.

■ The secretary and the service overseer should review the activity of all regular pioneers. If any are having difficulty meeting the hour requirement, the elders should arrange for assistance to be given. For suggestions, review the annual S-201 letters.

■ The special public talk for the 2004 Memorial season will be entitled "Be Courageous, and Trust in Jehovah." See the related announcement in the September 2003 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

## THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning February 23, 2004. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of January 5 through February 23, 2004. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

### SPEECH QUALITIES

1. What can we do to ensure that the practical value of the material being presented stands out to our audience and truly benefits them? [*be* p. 158 pars. 2-4]
2. Why should we choose our words carefully? [*be* p. 160 par. 1 and second box]
3. What fundamental requirement of good speech is highlighted at 1 Corinthians 14:9, and how can we apply this principle in our teaching? [*be* p. 161 pars. 1-4]
4. As seen at Matthew 5:3-12 and Mark 10:17-21, what is one outstanding characteristic of Jesus' teaching that we can imitate? [*be* p. 162 par. 4]
5. In our ministry or when commenting at congregation meetings, why should we be interested in using words that convey vigor, feeling, and color? (Matt. 23:37, 38) [*be* p. 163 par. 3–p. 164 par. 1]

### ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. What is the theme of a talk, and how can keeping it in mind be effective when selecting and organizing material for a talk? [*be* p. 39 par. 6–p. 40 par. 1]
7. (a) What does it mean to be spiritually clean, and why can spiritual cleanness be considered the most important cleanness of all? (b) How can Christians avoid acceptance of moral uncleanness that is common in the world? [*w*02 2/1 pp. 5-6]
8. Among all the principles contained in the Bible, which are the weightier ones? [*w*02 2/15 p. 5 pars. 1, 4, 6]
9. What is empathy, and how has Jesus displayed this quality? [*w*02 4/15 p. 25 pars. 4-5]
10. How does Proverbs 11:11 apply to congregations of Jehovah's people? [*w*02 5/15 p. 27 pars. 1-3]

### WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. What is represented by "the tree of life" mentioned at Genesis 2:9?
12. Why did Lot's wife lose her life? (Gen. 19:26) [*w*90 4/15 p. 18 par. 10]
13. In the prophetic drama of Genesis chapter 24, who is pictured by (a) Abraham, (b) Isaac, (c) Abraham's servant Eliezer, (d) the ten camels, and (e) Rebekah?
14. Did God predestinate Jacob and Esau? (Gen. 25:23)
15. In what way was Rachel a good example of one who put forth earnest effort that was blessed by Jehovah? (Gen. 30:1-8) [*w*02 8/1 pp. 29-30]

# We Can Do What Jehovah Asks

1 Complying with Jehovah's laws and principles is the best way of life today, and it helps us to lay a fine foundation for an eternal future. (Ps. 19:7-11; 1 Tim. 6:19) However, Satan's world puts us under much stress. Our own imperfect flesh adds to the challenge. In trying to fulfill our Scriptural responsibilities, we may at times feel overwhelmed. (Ps. 40:12; 55:1-8) We may even wonder if we can do all that Jehovah asks of us. At such times, what can help us to maintain our spiritual balance?

2 **Jehovah's Commandments Not Burdensome:** Jehovah never places unreasonable demands upon us. His commandments are not burdensome but are for our good. (Deut. 10:12, 13; 1 John 5:3) He takes into account our human frailties, "remembering that we are dust." (Ps. 103:13, 14) God mercifully accepts our best efforts to serve him, even if these are limited by our circumstances. (Lev. 5:7, 11; Mark 14:8) He invites us to throw our burdens on him, and he assures us that he will make it possible for us to remain faithful.—Ps. 55:22; 1 Cor. 10:13.

3 **Need of Endurance:** Bible accounts of integrity keepers such as Elijah, Jeremiah, and Paul show the need of endurance. (Heb. 10:36) Jehovah sustained them in times of adversity and discouragement. (1 Ki. 19:14-18; Jer. 20:7-11; 2 Cor. 1:8-11) And we are stirred by the loyalty of our brothers in modern times. (1 Pet. 5:9) Meditating on such examples can help us not to give out in our souls.

4 Hope in God's promises is "an anchor for the soul." (Heb. 6:19) It moved Abraham and Sarah to accept Jehovah's request to leave their home and 'reside as aliens in the land of promise.' It empowered Moses to take a fearless stand for true worship. It fortified Jesus to endure a torture stake. (Heb. 11:8-10, 13, 24-26; 12:2, 3) Keeping God's promise of a righteous new world burning brightly in our hearts will likewise help us to remain steadfast.—2 Pet. 3:11-13.

5 Recalling our own past acts of loyalty, self-sacrifice, and boldness can also energize us in our service. (Heb. 10:32-34) It reminds us of the joy we experience when we give Jehovah what he asks of us—our whole-souled devotion.—Matt. 22:37.

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1. What feelings may we have to contend with at times, and why?
2. How is Jehovah reasonable in what he expects of us?
3. How does Jehovah strengthen us to endure?
4. Why is it important to keep God's promises in focus?
5. Why can it be encouraging to reflect on our own past acts of loyalty?

## What to Say About the Magazines

**THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Feb. 15**

"Many people are troubled by the bad things that have been done in the name of religion. Some feel that religion is at the root of mankind's problems. Have you ever wondered about this? [Allow for response. Then read Revelation 18:24.] This magazine examines what the Bible says on this subject."

**Awake! Feb. 22**

"Many people delight in learning about animals, and some enjoy having them as pets. [Allow for comment.] This magazine discusses some of the challenges of owning a pet. It also explains God's promise of a time when all animals will be at peace with one another and with mankind." Read Isaiah 11:6-9.

**THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM Mar. 1**

"On one occasion, Jesus Christ was asked: 'Which commandment is first of all?' Notice his reply. [Read Mark 12:29, 30.] Have you ever wondered what Jesus meant? [Allow for response.] The article 'How We Show Our Love for God' examines the meaning of those famous words."

**Awake! Mar. 8**

"At one time, many people lived in fear of a nuclear war. Do you think nuclear war is likely today? [Allow for response.] This magazine examines current developments that concern all of us. It also explains the Bible's promise of a world where fear will be a thing of the past." Read Zephaniah 3:13.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

March 2004 For United States of America *km*-E Us 3/04 Vol. 47, No. 3

# “Love Jehovah, All You Loyal Ones”
## Jesus' Death to Be Commemorated on April 4

¹ Years ago, when Ukraine was under Communist rule, the authorities watched the brothers closely—especially when the day of the Lord's Evening Meal approached—because they hoped to discover their meeting place. This was always a problem, since the authorities knew the approximate date of the commemoration. What could the brothers do? One sister's home had a flooded basement. Since the authorities would not expect people to gather there, the brothers built a platform above the knee-deep water. Although they had to sit crouched on the platform under a low ceiling, nobody disturbed them as the congregation joyfully observed the Memorial.

² The determination of our Ukrainian brothers to obey the command to commemorate Jesus' death was a marvelous demonstration of their love for God. (Luke 22:19; 1 John 5:3) Whenever we are facing obstacles in our lives, may we draw encouragement from such examples and be determined to be present to observe the Lord's Evening Meal on April 4. By so doing, we show that we share the sentiments of the psalmist who sang: “O love Jehovah, all you loyal ones of his.” —Ps. 31:23.

³ **Help Others Grow in Love for God:** Love for God also moves us to invite others to observe the commemoration with us. The February *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert encouraged each of us to make a list of those we plan to invite to the Memorial. Are you diligently following through in extending an invitation to each person on your list? Take time to explain the significance of the occasion to them. A kindly reminder of the day and time of the Memorial and, if appropriate, an offer to accompany them may encourage them to attend.

⁴ At the observance, make a special effort to greet those who have accepted our invitation, and make them feel welcome. How can you help them to grow in their love for Jehovah? Make yourself available to answer their questions. Be alert to offer a Bible study if appropriate. Invite them to attend our weekly congregation meetings. Especially will elders want to give attention to inactive Christians who are present. They can arrange to visit such ones and encourage them to resume their activity, perhaps building on the thoughts presented in the Memorial discourse.—Rom. 5:6-8.

⁵ **Deepening Our Own Love for Jehovah:** Reflecting on the gift of the ransom can deepen our love for Jehovah and his Son. (2 Cor. 5:14, 15) One long-time Memorial attender said: “We look forward to the Memorial. It becomes more special each year. I remember standing in the funeral home 20 years ago, looking at my dear dad and coming to a true heartfelt appreciation for the ransom. It had been an academic subject before that. Oh, I knew all the scriptures and how to explain them! But only when I felt the cold reality of death did my heart fairly leap with joy over what will be accomplished for us by means of that precious ransom.”—John 5:28, 29.

⁶ As the date of this year's observance approaches, take time to prepare your heart for the occasion. (2 Chron. 19:3) Meditate on the special Memorial Bible reading, which is outlined in *Examining the Scriptures Daily—2004* and on the *2004 Calendar*. Some enjoy reviewing chapters 112-16 in the *Greatest Man* book during their family study. Others do additional research using other study aids provided through the faithful and discreet slave class. (Matt. 24:45-47) All of us can make the gift of the ransom a matter of heartfelt prayer. (Ps. 50:14, 23) Yes, during this Memorial season, may we continually reflect on Jehovah's love for us and seek ways to demonstrate our love for him.—Mark 12:30; 1 John 4:10.

## SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

### Week Starting March 8

Song 37

**10 min:** Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Remind all to bring the new brochure *"See the Good Land"* to next week's Service Meeting. Using the suggestions on page 4, demonstrate how to present the March 15 *Watchtower* and the March 22 *Awake!*

**15 min:** Using Tracts to Start Conversations. Audience discussion. Often the most difficult part of giving a witness is getting the conversation started. Tracts can be used to break the ice in door-to-door witnessing, in business territory, and in public places. Briefly review two or three tracts that might appeal to people in the local territory. What introductory comments might be made when presenting these tracts? How may the illustrations be used? What questions might tactfully be raised? Highlight a paragraph in each tract that could be considered if the householder shows interest. Demonstrate how a conversation may be started using a tract. Have the publisher briefly consider one paragraph from the tract and then conclude by offering the *Knowledge* book.

**20 min:** "Love Jehovah, All You Loyal Ones."* When discussing paragraph 3, entertain comments from audience on how they have invited people to the Memorial observance.

Song 131 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting March 15

Song 121

**10 min:** Local announcements. Review main points of "Memorial Reminders." Announce when the *Watchtower* Study will be held for the week of the Memorial.

**15 min:** Update on Special Activity During Memorial Season. Audience discussion to be handled by the service overseer. Mention special arrangements that have been made. Relate a few experiences that have been enjoyed. Encourage those who can do so to enroll as auxiliary pioneers for April and May. Briefly review a few points from the February *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert.

**20 min:** Benefit From *"See the Good Land."* The new brochure can make our reading and study of God's Word more meaningful. A key is using its index. Read Isaiah 63:1, which describes Jehovah as coming from Bozrah. Invite all to find the entry for Bozrah in the *"Good Land"* index. Explain what "Bozrah **11** G11" means, using the box on page 34, and find Bozrah and Edom on the map indicated. Using the index, find Jesus' route from Jerusalem to Sychar. (John 4:3-5) Do the same for the location of the pool of Bethzatha. (John 5:1-3) Select one or two additional examples from the weekly Bible reading for the Theocratic Ministry School. Invite the audience to comment on where those locations can be found in the brochure and how we benefit from consulting the maps. Briefly highlight some of the maps contained in the brochure, noting the periods covered. The map on pages 18-19 presents the greatest number of Bible sites. Urge all to make good use of *"See the Good Land."*

Song 63 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting March 22

Song 191

**10 min:** Local announcements. Accounts report. Remind all to follow the Memorial Bible reading scheduled for March 30–April 4, as outlined in *Examining the Scriptures Daily—2004* and on the *2004 Calendar.*

**15 min:** Local needs.

**20 min:** "A Cavalry Charge That Involves You."* Read and discuss cited scriptures as time permits.

Song 181 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting March 29

Song 129

**10 min:** Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in March field service reports. Mention literature offer for April. Using the suggestions on page 4, demonstrate how to present the April 1 *Watchtower* and the April 8 *Awake!*

**15 min:** Make Good Use of the *2004 Yearbook.* Talk and audience discussion. Mention highlights of "A Letter From the Governing Body," outstanding figures from the worldwide report, and a few faith-strengthening experiences. Encourage all to read the entire book during the year.

**20 min:** The Truth Unites Families. Talk and audience discussion. Interested ones sometimes hold back from serving Jehovah because of opposition from family members. Have some of the following experiences related: January 1, 2002, *Watchtower,* pages 14-15; December 1, 2000, *Watchtower,* page 8; September 1, 1999, *Watchtower,* page 32; January 1, 1999, *Watchtower,* page 4; and February 22, 1998, *Awake!,* page 31. Highlight that family life often improves when even one member of the household applies Bible principles.

Song 130 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting April 5

Song 126

**10 min:** Local announcements.

**20 min:** Physical Cleanness Recommends Us. A talk based on the June 1, 2002, *Watchtower,* pages 19-21. Include a demonstration in which an elder shows a pioneer how tactfully to help a Bible student see the importance of keeping his home and yard clean, using lesson 9, paragraph 5, in the *Require* brochure.

**15 min:** Relate experiences enjoyed in connection with the Memorial observance and the increased service activity during March.

Song 25 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

### DECEMBER SERVICE REPORT

| Number of: | | Av. Hrs. | Av. Mags. | Av. R.V. | Av. Bi.St. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sp'l Pios. | **204** | **106.0** | **85.9** | **47.9** | **4.5** |
| Pios. | **93,681** | **63.5** | **41.8** | **20.8** | **1.9** |
| Aux. Pios. | **18,535** | **48.9** | **34.7** | **13.6** | **1.1** |
| Pubs. | **879,023** | **9.0** | **8.0** | **3.6** | **0.3** |
| TOTAL | **991,443** | | | Baptized: | **1,810** |

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **March:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life.* A special effort will be made to start home Bible studies. If people already have this publication, *Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy!* may be offered. **April and May:** Feature individual copies of both *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* When making return visits on interested people, which may include calling on those who attend the Memorial and/or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the organization, concentrate on placing the *Worship God* book. Every effort should be made to start a home Bible study, especially if some individuals have already studied the *Knowledge* book and the *Require* brochure. **June:** *Learn From the Great Teacher.* If individuals say they have no children, offer the *Require* brochure. When using the brochure, concentrate on starting home Bible studies.

■ The branch office does not fill individual publishers' requests for literature. The presiding overseer should arrange for an announcement to be made *each month* before the congregation monthly request for literature is sent to the branch so that all interested in obtaining personal literature items may advise the brother handling literature. Please keep in mind which publications are special-request items.

■ It is important that groups of 20 or more persons planning to visit the branch office facilities first correspond by mail with the Central Tour Desk at 100 Watchtower Drive, Patterson, NY 12563-9204. The Central Tour Desk will care for groups that will be visiting the branch office facilities at Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, or the Assembly Hall at Jersey City, New Jersey. Please send information on the number coming and the dates and times for visiting each location. The branch office will provide a description of the tours that are available as well as a map giving directions to each location. *Lodging information has been sent to the congregation elder bodies and may be obtained from the congregation secretary.* Before your visit, please review the June 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box regarding proper dress and grooming when visiting Bethel homes.

■ A packet of legal material is available to assist publishers who are involved in lawsuits over child custody and visitation matters in which our religion is under attack. The packet should be requested by the *body of elders only* in a case in which it is evident that the publisher's religious beliefs will be at issue. For those facing secular issues on child custody or visitation, helpful information can be found in *Awake!* of December 8, 1997, pages 3-12; in *Awake!* of October 22, 1988, pages 2-14; and on the chart found in *Awake!* of April 22, 1991, page 9.

■ The secretary should see that the Regional Building Committee is kept up-to-date on the status of all baptized publishers who have submitted Kingdom Hall Volunteer Worker Questionnaire (S-82) forms. When there are adjustments in a volunteer's status, such as when one moves or is appointed as a ministerial servant or an elder, new forms should be filled out promptly and submitted. If a volunteer's mailing address or telephone number changes or if he is no longer in good standing in the congregation, the elders should immediately inform the Regional Building Committee by letter. The completed S-82 forms in the congregation file should be made available for the circuit overseer's review when he visits the congregation.

■ U.S. Selective Service regulations require that all men register at the post office within 30 days after reaching 18 years of age. A male noncitizen under the age of 26 who takes up residency in the United States must also register with Selective Service within 30 days of becoming a resident. All of those required to do so should comply with this law, viewing it as a Christian's obligation to the superior authorities. From the time he registers until the year he turns 26, a brother must notify Selective Service of any change of address within ten days of the change. Elders should be aware of young brothers nearing the age of 18 and new alien residents between the ages of 18 and 26 and remind them of their duty to register with the Selective Service System.

## Memorial Reminders

The Memorial observance this year falls on Sunday, April 4. The elders should give attention to the following matters:

■ In setting the time for the meeting, make sure that the emblems will not be passed until after sundown.

■ Everyone, including the speaker, should be informed of the exact time and location of the observance.

■ The appropriate type of bread and wine should be obtained and made ready. —See the February 15, 2003, *Watchtower,* pages 14-15.

■ Plates, glasses, and a suitable table and tablecloth should be brought to the hall and put in place in advance.

■ The Kingdom Hall or other meeting place should be thoroughly cleaned ahead of time.

■ Attendants and servers should be selected and instructed in advance about their duties, the proper procedure to be followed, and the need for dignified dress and grooming.

■ Arrangements should be made to serve any of the anointed who are infirm and unable to be present.

■ When more than one congregation is scheduled to use the same Kingdom Hall, there should be good coordination among congregations so as to avoid unnecessary congestion in the lobby or entryway, on the public sidewalks, and in the parking lot.

# A Cavalry Charge That Involves You

[1] “The sixth angel blew his trumpet.” Following that, “armies of cavalry” numbering “two myriads of myriads” thunder forth. This is no ordinary military force. “The heads of the horses [are] as heads of lions.” Fire, smoke, and sulfur spew forth from their mouths, and their “tails are like serpents.” This symbolic cavalry charge leaves devastation in its wake. (Rev. 9:13-19) Do you know how you are involved in the fulfillment of this striking prophetic vision?

[2] The anointed remnant and their companions, the other sheep, unitedly make known God’s judgments. This results in the complete exposure of Christendom’s spiritually dead condition. Let us examine two elements of the prophetic vision that highlight why the ministry of God’s servants is so effective.

[3] **Trained and Equipped to Deliver God’s Message:** By means of the Theocratic Ministry School and other congregation meetings, *God’s ministers have been trained to speak God’s message with authority.* In imitation of Jesus and his disciples, they go forth to search out deserving ones, preaching wherever people can be found. (Matt. 10:11; Mark 1:16; Luke 4:15; Acts 20:18-20) How effective this Biblical method of preaching has proved to be!

[4] Billions of Bibles, books, brochures, and magazines have been distributed by Christian ministers in carrying out the divine preaching commission. These publications have been provided in nearly 400 languages, covering a wide variety of subjects and using approaches that appeal to various kinds of people. Are you making effective use of these instruments?

[5] **Heavenly Direction and Support:** The prophetic vision also makes clear that *the activity represented by the symbolic cavalry charge has divine backing.* (Rev. 9:13-15) The global preaching work is accomplished, not through human wisdom or power, but by means of God’s spirit. (Zech. 4:6) Jehovah is using the angels to direct this work. (Rev. 14:6) Thus, along with the efforts of his human Witnesses, Jehovah provides heavenly support to draw meek ones to himself. —John 6:45, 65.

[6] Trained, well equipped to deliver God’s message, and working under angelic direction, Jehovah’s people are an irresistible force. Let us continue to play our part in the fulfillment of this thrilling prophetic vision.

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1, 2. How are God’s servants today involved in the fulfillment of the prophetic vision recorded at Revelation 9:13-19?

3. What training have you received to speak God’s message effectively?

4. What equipment is available to many publishers to enable them to carry out their work?

5, 6. What indicates that Jehovah’s people have heavenly backing?

## What to Say About the Magazines

**THE WATCHTOWER** ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH’S KINGDOM **Mar. 15**

“We would like to invite you to the observance of the Lord’s Evening Meal on Sunday, April 4. [Explain using back cover of magazine or printed Memorial invitation. Then read Luke 22:19.] The lead articles in this issue of *The Watchtower* discuss the meaning of this event and how it is observed.”

**Awake! Mar. 22**

After mentioning a tragic event that is on people’s minds, ask: “Have you ever wondered why God allows such things to happen? [Allow for response. Then read James 1:13.] This article, which is written especially for young people, explains why our loving Creator has not yet stepped in to end human suffering.”

**THE WATCHTOWER** ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH’S KINGDOM **Apr. 1**

“Few passages have evoked as much speculation as the Bible’s cryptic description of the mark of the beast. Have you ever heard of it? [Allow for response. Then read Revelation 13:16-18.] The Bible itself provides the keys to unlocking the meaning of this mystery. This magazine explains what they are.”

**Awake! Apr. 8**

“Most people are familiar with the life story of Moses. But did you know that Moses said something that touches our lives today? [Allow for response. Then read Deuteronomy 18:15.] This issue of *Awake!* discusses who that foretold prophet is and what he is going to do for the benefit of mankind.”

# OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

April 2004 For United States of America *km*-E Us 4/04 Vol. 47, No. 4

## Offering Jehovah Our Best

1 Jehovah's Law to Israel stipulated that animals presented to him in sacrifice had to be "sound." A defective animal was unacceptable. (Lev. 22:18-20; Mal. 1:6-9) Furthermore, when a sacrifice was made, all the fat—the richest part—belonged to Jehovah. (Lev. 3:14-16) As Israel's Father and Grand Master, Jehovah deserved the very best.

2 As in ancient times, God is keenly interested in the quality of our offerings today. Our service should reflect proper reverence for Jehovah. Of course, circumstances vary from person to person. Yet, we have good reason to scrutinize ourselves to make sure that we are giving him our best.—Eph. 5:10.

3 **Wholehearted Service:** In order for our ministry to honor Jehovah and touch the hearts of our listeners, it cannot be perfunctory. Our expressions regarding our God and his grand purposes should spring from hearts brimming with appreciation. (Ps. 145:7) This highlights the importance of maintaining a good program of personal Bible reading and study.—Prov. 15:28.

4 Giving Jehovah our best also involves imitating his love for people. (Eph. 5:1, 2) Love for people will motivate us to try to reach as many as possible with the life-giving message of truth. (Mark 6:34) It moves us to show personal interest in those to whom we speak. It keeps us thinking about them after the initial call and prompts us to return. It impels us to do all we can to help them progress spiritually.—Acts 20:24; 26:28, 29.

5 **"A Sacrifice of Praise":** Another way we give Jehovah our best is by our diligence in the ministry. When we are well-organized and focused on the work at hand, we can accomplish the most good in the time we have available. (1 Tim. 4:10) Good preparation enables us to speak with clarity and conviction, thereby increasing the likelihood of a favorable response. (Prov. 16:21) As we share the good news with others, our heartfelt expressions can rightly be called "a sacrifice of praise."—Heb. 13:15.

## Young People—Read God's Word!

1 Youth is a time of challenges and weighty decisions. Many of you Christian youths are daily confronted with pressure to violate divine standards of conduct. As you begin to make personal decisions regarding education, employment, and marriage, you should already have set your spiritual goals. Only in that way can you make other decisions that will shape the rest of your life for good. Well-defined spiritual goals will help you to act wisely and make your way successful. By reading and meditating on God's Word regularly, you will be moved to live in harmony with its inspired counsel, and your right endeavors will meet with success.—Josh. 1:8; Ps. 1:2, 3.

2 **How Will It Benefit You?** Satan's world is full of enticements to engage in wrongdoing. (1 John 2:15, 16) You may know of classmates or others your age who have experienced calamity because of yielding to peer pressure. Adhering to Bible counsel will give you the moral and spiritual strength to reject a sinful course. Further, the counsel of God's Word can help you to avoid Satan's subtle snares. (2 Cor. 2:11; Heb. 5:14) Walking in God's ways will bring you true happiness—personal satisfaction with your course in life.—Ps. 119:1, 9, 11.

3 The timeless principles of God's Word surpass human wisdom. (Ps. 119:98-100) Familiarity with Bible principles and meditation on Jehovah's revealed purposes along with heartfelt prayer can help you to build a close relationship with the Bible's all-wise Author, Jehovah God. He promises: "I shall make you have insight and instruct you in the way you should go. I will give advice with my eye upon you."—Ps. 32:8.

4 **Make Time to Read It:** One young Christian made it her goal to read the entire Bible, and she finished within a year. How did she benefit? She recalls: "I learned so much about Jehovah—things that drew me closer to him and made me want to fear him for the rest of my life." (Jas. 4:8) Have you read the entire Bible? If not, why not make it your goal to do so? Jehovah will certainly bless your efforts, and you will reap great rewards.

## SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

**Note:** *Our Kingdom Ministry* will schedule a Service Meeting for each week during the summer months. Congregations may make adjustments as needed to allow for attending the "Walk With God" District Convention. Where appropriate, use 15 minutes on the last Service Meeting before attending the convention to repeat pointed counsel from this month's insert that applies locally. During the month of October, an entire Service Meeting will be arranged to review highlights of the convention program. In preparation for that discussion, all of us can take meaningful notes at the convention, including a list of specific points that we wish to apply personally in our own life and in the field ministry. Then we can encourage others by explaining how we have applied the suggestions.

### Week Starting April 12

Song 93

**10 min:** Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 8, demonstrate how to present the April 15 *Watchtower* and the April 22 *Awake!* In each case, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured. In each demonstration, show a different way to handle the conversation stopper "I'm busy."—See *Reasoning* book, pages 19-20.

**15 min:** "Offering Jehovah Our Best."* When discussing paragraph 4, invite audience to comment on specific ways we can show love for people when carrying out our ministry.

**20 min:** "Let Us Exalt His Name Together."* To be handled by the congregation secretary, using the questions that are provided. Mention the convention to which the congregation is assigned. The program times are listed in the December 2003 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert. Other points from that insert may be highlighted as needed. Conclude by posing two or three questions from the article "Spiritual Food at the Proper Time," which will be discussed at next week's Service Meeting.

Song 91 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting April 19

Song 55

**8 min:** Local announcements.

**17 min:** "Imitate Jesus' Mental Attitude."* Use the questions that are provided. When discussing paragraph 4, invite those who are auxiliary pioneering to comment on the blessings they have experienced as a result of doing so.

**20 min:** "Spiritual Food at the Proper Time."* Use the questions that are provided. When discussing paragraph 2, have one or two in the audience briefly comment on a memorable convention that they attended. Conclude by posing two or three questions from the article "Be Holy in All Your Conduct," which will be discussed at next week's Service Meeting.

Song 80 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting April 26

Song 46

**12 min:** Local announcements. Accounts report. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for April. Mention literature offer for May. Using the suggestions on page 8, demonstrate how to present the May 1 *Watchtower* and the May 8 *Awake!* In each case, both magazines should be offered as a set, even though only one is featured. In one of the presentations, demonstrate witnessing to a workmate or a schoolmate.

**15 min:** Local needs.

**18 min:** "Be Holy in All Your Conduct."* Use the questions that are provided. Invite audience to comment on how they have observed that fine conduct at conventions brings praise to Jehovah. Conclude by posing two or three questions from the article "Chaste, Praiseworthy Personal Appearance," which will be discussed at next week's Service Meeting.

Song 38 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting May 3

Song 48

**10 min:** Local announcements. Briefly comment on activities usually planned for summer: attending the district convention, auxiliary pioneering, making improvements around the house, and perhaps enjoying some recreation. If the congregation has seldom-worked territory, announce what arrangements are being made for thorough coverage. Diligent planning is needed to ensure that family study, congregation meetings, and field service are not neglected if travel or other summer activities take us out of our usual routine. (Prov. 21:5) Remind all to turn in their field service reports, regardless of whether they are at home or away.

**15 min:** "Young People—Read God's Word!"* Arrange in advance for one or two youths to comment on their program of Bible reading and how they are benefiting from it. Encourage youths to make it their goal to read the entire Bible. Include comments on the *Ministry School* book, page 10, paragraph 4.

**20 min:** "Chaste, Praiseworthy Personal Appearance."* Use the questions that are provided. As time permits, read and discuss the cited scriptures.

Song 164 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

### JANUARY SERVICE REPORT

| Number of: | | Av. Hrs. | Av. Mags. | Av. R.V. | Av. Bi.St. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sp'l Pios. | **224** | **100.0** | **82.3** | **46.7** | **4.6** |
| Pios. | **93,738** | **64.0** | **40.6** | **21.5** | **2.0** |
| Aux. Pios. | **18,893** | **48.8** | **33.5** | **14.1** | **1.2** |
| Pubs. | **884,887** | **9.3** | **8.0** | **3.7** | **0.4** |
| TOTAL | **997,742** | | Baptized: **1,798** | | |

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# “Let Us Exalt His Name Together”

[1] “O magnify Jehovah with me, . . . and let us exalt his name together,” sang the psalmist. (Ps. 34:3) Our upcoming “Walk With God” District Convention will give us the opportunity to exalt Jehovah’s name together with our brothers and sisters from many congregations. Have you made your arrangements for accommodations, transportation, and time off from secular work? We are wise to care for these well in advance.—Prov. 21:5.

[2] **Arriving at the Convention Site:** There are many matters to care for when we attend a convention. Getting an early start will help us to cope with unexpected delays and will enable us to be settled in our seats in time to share wholeheartedly in the opening song and prayer. (Ps. 69:30) A few minutes before the start of the session, the chairman will be seated on the platform while introductory Kingdom music is played. All of us should take our seats at that time so that the program can begin in a dignified manner.—1 Cor. 14:33, 40.

**Ways to Exalt God’s Name**

- Advance planning
- Show love for others
- Prepare your heart

[3] God’s Word admonishes us to ‘let all our affairs take place with love.’ (1 Cor. 16:14) When the doors open at 8:00 a.m., consideration for others will restrain us from running, rushing, pushing, or shoving in an effort to get to the seats we prefer before others do. *Seats may be saved only for those traveling with you in the same vehicle or living with you in the same home.*—1 Cor. 13:5; Phil. 2:4.

[4] Please bring a lunch rather than leave the convention site to obtain a meal during the noon break. This will allow all to enjoy upbuilding association and be present from the very start of the afternoon session. If necessary, a small cooler that can be placed under a seat may be used. Large family-size picnic coolers, glass containers, and alcoholic beverages are not permitted in the convention facility.

[5] For the benefit of those with impaired hearing, the program will be broadcast in the vicinity of the auditorium on an FM radio frequency. An announcement regarding this will be made at the beginning of the first session. To make use of this provision, you will need to bring a small FM receiver with earphones.

[6] **A Spiritual Banquet Awaits Us:** King Jehoshaphat was one who “prepared [his] heart to search for the true God.” (2 Chron. 19:3) How can we prepare our heart before the convention? The articles on the back page of the May 22 and June 8 issues of *Awake!* provide a preview of the spiritual banquet that will be served. Why not take time to reflect on those articles, building anticipation for what Jehovah has in store for us? Preparing our heart also involves asking Jehovah to help us get the sense of the instruction we will receive and apply it.—Ps. 25:4, 5.

[7] We all long to learn more from the Word of God, realizing that by means of it we can grow to salvation. (1 Pet. 2:2) Hence, let us be in attendance for our “Walk With God” District Convention and ‘exalt Jehovah’s name together.’—Ps. 34:3.

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1. What opportunity will we have to exalt God’s name together, and what can we do now in preparation?
2. Why is it beneficial to plan to arrive at the convention site early?
3. How can we show consideration for others when finding seats?
4. What are the arrangements for the noon break, and how is this beneficial?
5. What provision has been made for those with impaired hearing?
6. How can we prepare our hearts for the instruction we will receive?
7. What is our desire, and why?

# Spiritual Food at the Proper Time

1 "I will . . . call to the grain and make it abound, and I shall put upon you no famine," is the utterance of the Sovereign Lord Jehovah. (Ezek. 36:29) Those prophetic words apply to God's people today. Figuratively speaking, Jehovah has caused life-sustaining grain to sprout up abundantly for his people. The timely spiritual food provided through our district conventions well illustrates this fact.

2 At the convention held at Columbus, Ohio, in 1931, Jehovah directed his worshipers to take on a new name—Jehovah's Witnesses. (Isa. 43:10-12) In 1935 the great crowd of Revelation 7:9-17 was correctly identified. In 1942, Brother Knorr delivered the discourse "Peace—Can It Last?" That talk gave impetus to the global preaching work and led to the formation of the Watchtower Bible School of Gilead. Although some conventions are especially memorable, each one has proved to be a well-laden table of nourishing spiritual food served at the right time.—Ps. 23:5; Matt. 24:45.

### Show Appreciation for Jehovah's Table

- Pay close attention
- Note key points
- Review program highlights each evening
- Apply what you learn

3 **How Well Are You Eating?** It is possible to be surrounded by food and yet be malnourished if we do not put forth the effort to eat. (Prov. 26:15) The same is true in a spiritual sense. At a few conventions, it has been observed that many are needlessly walking around or talking with others during the program. While upbuilding association is an important aspect of the convention, the time for this is before and after each session. (Eccl. 3:1, 7) If we are not in our seats paying close attention, we may miss a vital point. Convention department overseers and brothers with assignments may occasionally find it necessary to discuss convention matters while the sessions are in progress. Otherwise, they should set an example by their attentiveness to the program. None of us can afford to miss any of the spiritual food provided. —1 Cor. 10:12; Phil. 2:12.

4 How we rejoice in the rich spiritual truths Jehovah provides, as contrasted with the dried-out false doctrines of Christendom! (Isa. 65:13, 14) One way we can 'show ourselves thankful' is by viewing the convention as an opportunity to be taught by Jehovah. (Col. 3:15) Look beyond the brother giving the talk, and view the message as coming from our "Grand Instructor." (Isa. 30:20, 21; 54:13) Pay rapt attention. Take brief notes of key points. Review program highlights each evening. Apply what you learn.

5 Every convention on this side of Armageddon, whether it is held in a refugee camp, in a war-torn land, or in a larger more peaceful setting, is a victory over Satan! As a united brotherhood, we cherish our opportunities to flock together at district conventions. (Ezek. 36:38) We are confident that once again Jehovah will lovingly provide us with "food supplies at the proper time."—Luke 12:42.

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1. How is Ezekiel 36:29 being fulfilled today?
2. How has Jehovah used district conventions to dispense spiritual food at the proper time?
3. What must we do to benefit from the spiritual banquet at our district convention?
4. How can we show ourselves thankful for the bounty Jehovah provides?
5. What reasons for rejoicing do district conventions give us?

# Be Holy in All Your Conduct

[1] As servants of the holy God, Jehovah, we strive to be holy in all our conduct. (1 Pet. 1:15, 16) This means that we endeavor to uphold Jehovah's standards in all aspects of our lives. The district convention this year will provide us with a special opportunity to display holy conduct.

[2] **At Hotels:** One manager of a hotel used by convention delegates last year said: "Jehovah's Witnesses were such nice people to have here. . . . You are the type of people we want." Observing the following reminders will help us to maintain our good reputation: (1) Do not reserve more rooms than will actually be needed, and do not have more people stay in your room than allowed. (2) If you must cancel your reservation, notify the hotel immediately. (3) Take a luggage cart only when you are ready to use it. (4) Do not cook in noncooking rooms. (5) Leave a tip for the housekeeper each day. (6) Do not abuse any complimentary breakfast, coffee, and ice provisions that are made available for guests to use *while they are at the hotel.* (7) Display the fruitage of the spirit in dealing with the hotel staff, especially during very busy check-in and checkout times.—Gal. 5:22, 23.

**Display Holy Conduct**

- Observe all hotel rules
- Monitor children closely
- Be considerate of others

[3] Our good manners can give a powerful witness. Last year a young Witness politely asked a hotel desk clerk for some stationery and then thanked her. This touched the clerk, and she was heard to remark: "You just don't see young ones with such polite manners anymore." However, in a few cases, unsupervised children have been observed swimming, playing in elevators, talking loudly, and running in hallways. Parents should not allow their children to be let on the loose but should monitor them to ensure that their conduct brings praise to Jehovah.—Prov. 29:15.

[4] **At Restaurants:** A waiter in a restaurant near one convention commented: "Witnesses are different. They show respect for others." Good conduct includes avoiding loud speech and laughter that may disturb others who are dining. We should also remember that in many places it is customary to leave a 15 to 20 percent tip, depending on the service. Even when eating and drinking, we seek to do all things for God's glory.—1 Cor. 10:31.

[5] **At the Convention:** Especially should our fine conduct be in evidence at the convention site. Please cooperate with the attendants' direction, both in the parking lot and in the auditorium. (Heb. 13:17) Families should sit together rather than allow their children, including teenagers, to sit with groups of other young people. Recorders of any type should not be connected to the facility's electrical or sound system and may only be used in a way that does not disturb others. If you intend to take pictures, no flash should be used during sessions. Pagers and cell phones should be set so as not to cause a distraction. If you observe an accident in the facility, instead of calling 911, please inform an attendant or the First Aid Department. Qualified medical assistance is available on site.

[6] Our conduct sets us apart from others and glorifies our God. (1 Pet. 2:12) At the convention, the actions of Jehovah's Witnesses will be on display. Therefore, be determined to be holy in all your conduct.

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1. Why is it important to be holy in all our conduct?
2. How can we manifest fine conduct at hotels?
3. How may the conduct of younger Witnesses impress others?
4. How can we show consideration for others when dining out?
5. What does good conduct include at the convention site?
6. How does our conduct at conventions glorify God?

# Chaste, Praiseworthy Personal Appearance

[1] "Jehovah's Witnesses are the best! Your people are kind and well dressed, and they exhibit deep respect." So said a hotel representative about the brothers and sisters at one district convention last year. At another convention, a hotel worker commented: "It is evident that your people dress for God." Yes, convention delegates are noticed by others. We therefore want to dress "in a manner worthy of the good news," and this often moves outsiders to compliment us and makes it obvious that we are ministers of God. (Phil. 1:27) As we prepare for the district convention, it is appropriate to give advance thought to our appearance.

[2] "The wisdom from above is first of all chaste," wrote the disciple James. (Jas. 3:17) Reflecting chasteness in our appearance can be a challenge. Satan's immoral world influences people to adopt immodest, sensual, and outlandish styles that are not befitting. (1 John 2:15-17) Hence, when making decisions regarding dress and grooming, we need to heed the Bible's admonition to "repudiate ungodliness and worldly desires and to live with soundness of mind . . . amid this present system of things." (Titus 2:12) Never would we want to disturb others by our appearance, be they our brothers, hotel and restaurant personnel, or other observers. —1 Cor. 10:32, 33.

[3] **Modest, Well-Arranged Dress:** When preparing for the convention, ask yourself: 'Is my clothing modest, or does it draw undue attention to me? Does it show respect for the feelings of others? Are my blouses too low at the neckline or too short? Are my dresses revealing or tight? Is my clothing clean and free of offensive odors? When obtaining complimentary breakfast provisions at the hotel or relaxing after the program, will I have the neat, clean appearance of a minister, or will my clothing be sloppy, faddish, overly casual, and inappropriate for a convention delegate wearing a badge card? Would the clothing I wear during leisure time make me embarrassed to witness informally?'—Rom. 15:2, 3; 1 Tim. 2:9.

**Aids to Praiseworthy Appearance**

- ■ God's Word
- ■ Self-examination
- ■ Observations of others
- ■ Christian publications

[4] We can benefit from the observations of mature Christians. Wives should ask their husbands how their clothing might appear to others. Godly parents can help their teenage children in this regard. Moreover, reverent older sisters can "recall the young women to their senses . . . to be sound in mind, chaste" in their appearance "so that the word of God may not be spoken of abusively." (Titus 2:3-5) Our publications provide helpful illustrations depicting modest, well-arranged dress.

[5] **Bring Praise to Jehovah:** District conventions provide an excellent opportunity for all of us, not just program participants, to praise Jehovah. Of course, our Christian conduct and speech will honor him. But the first thing many observers notice about us is our dress and grooming. May all of us bring praise to Jehovah by our chaste, praiseworthy personal appearance.—Ps. 148:12, 13.

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1. In preparation for the district convention, why should we give consideration to our appearance?
2. Why is it a challenge to dress and groom oneself in a chaste manner?
3. What questions will help us to examine our personal appearance?
4. How can others help us to present a chaste appearance?
5. How can all of us bring praise to Jehovah during the convention?

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **April and May:** Feature individual copies of both *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* When making return visits on interested people, which may include calling on those who attended the Memorial and/or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the organization, concentrate on placing the *Worship God* book. Every effort should be made to start a home Bible study, especially if some individuals have already studied the *Knowledge* book and the *Require* brochure. **June:** *Learn From the Great Teacher*. If individuals say that they have no children, offer the *Require* brochure. When using the brochure, concentrate on starting home Bible studies. **July and August:** Offer the *Knowledge* book or the *Require* brochure. When householders already have these publications, use another appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock.

■ Beginning in April, district convention badge cards for 2004 will automatically be included with literature shipments. It will not be necessary to request these unless you have a foreign-language group associated with your congregation. Based on the size of each congregation, cards will be shipped in lots of 25. If the congregation needs additional badge cards, these should be requested on the *Literature Request Form* (S-14). Plastic badge holders must be requested for any in the congregation who desire them.

■ DISTRICT CONVENTION PARKING: At all convention sites where we have secured control of the parking facilities, the spaces will be made available at no charge on a first-come, first-served basis. No parking tickets will be used, but convention badge cards will serve as identification for parking. Only those who have a state-approved disabled license plate or placard will be allowed to park in the parking reserved for the disabled. Being aware that considerable expense is involved, we can show our appreciation by making voluntary contributions to the worldwide work at our Kingdom Hall or at the convention. Any checks contributed at the convention should be made payable to "Watch Tower." Since parking space is usually limited, carpooling should be done to the extent possible rather than having only one or two persons per car.

## THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning April 26, 2004. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of March 1 through April 26, 2004. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

### SPEECH QUALITIES

1. When we are delivering a talk, why is it better to speak from an outline rather than read from a manuscript? [*be* p. 166 par. 3]
2. In preparing for field service, how can we organize our thoughts into a mental outline? [*be* p. 167 par. 3]
3. Using Acts 13:16-41 and Acts 17:2, 3, explain how Paul 'proved *logically* that Jesus is the Christ.' (Acts 9:22) [*be* p. 170 par. 2]
4. What are some advantages of extemporaneous delivery? [*be* p. 175 pars. 1-4]
5. What potential pitfalls come with extemporaneous speaking, and what can help us to avoid them? [*be* p. 175 par. 5–p. 176 par. 3]

### ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. According to the account at Genesis 32:24-32, what did 97-year-old Jacob do to gain Jehovah's blessing, and what does this teach us? [*w*02 8/1 pp. 29-31]
7. What is "thinking ability," and how can it prevent us from being thrown off balance and unnecessarily hurt? (Prov. 1:4) [*w*02 8/15 pp. 21-2]
8. How can public speakers make the Scriptures the basis for their talks? [*be* p. 52 par. 6–p. 53 par. 5]
9. In turning a talk outline into a meaty explanation of Scripture, a speaker must make what decisions? [*be* p. 54 pars. 2-4]
10. Why did Jehovah feed the Israelites with manna week after week, month after month, in the wilderness, and what can we learn from this? (Deut. 8:16) [*w*02 9/1 p. 30 pars. 3-4]

### WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. As reflected at Genesis 37:12-17, what parallel do we find between Joseph's course and that of Jesus? [*w*87 5/1 p. 12 par. 12]
12. As can be seen in the account at Genesis 42:25-35, how did Joseph show compassion comparable to the compassion Jesus shows? [*w*87 5/1 p. 18 par. 10; p. 19 par. 17]
13. How do the provisions made by the slave class today correspond with the distribution of grain in Joseph's day? (Gen. 47:21-25)
14. In saying, "I shall prove to be what I shall prove to be," what was Jehovah revealing with regard to his name? (Ex. 3:14, 15)
15. What two inherent dangers in complaining are noted at Exodus 16:2, 3? [*w*93 3/15 pp. 20-1]

# Imitate Jesus' Mental Attitude

[1] Although we have never seen God's Son, through the written record of Jesus' life and ministry, we have truly come to love him. (1 Pet. 1:8) In obedience to his Father's will, he forsook his exalted heavenly position and came to earth. As a human, he selflessly ministered to others and then gave his life in behalf of mankind. (Matt. 20:28) God's Word urges us: "Keep this mental attitude in you that was also in Christ Jesus." How can we imitate his self-sacrificing spirit?—Phil. 2:5-8.

[2] **When Feeling Tired:** Even though Jesus was perfect, he still got tired. On one occasion, when he was "tired out from the journey," he gave a thorough witness to a Samaritan woman. (John 4:6) Many Christians today face a similar challenge. After a tiring workweek, it can be difficult to find the strength to participate in the preaching work. However, if we do so regularly, we will find that the Christian ministry refreshes us spiritually.—John 4:32-34.

[3] On another occasion, Jesus and his disciples headed to a lonely place in order to rest up a bit. However, a great crowd found out and ran ahead to meet them. Rather than becoming irritated, Jesus was "moved with pity for them" and proceeded to "teach them many things." (Mark 6:30-34) Starting and conducting Bible studies calls for a similar attitude. It requires persistent effort and genuine love for people. If you are not presently conducting a Bible study, do not give up in trying to find one.

[4] **Put Spiritual Interests First:** Auxiliary pioneering can help us to focus more on spiritual activities. One young sister wrote: "The mother of one of my friends encouraged both of us to auxiliary pioneer with her for a month. I'm really glad that we joined her. I enjoyed getting to know the brothers and sisters better, and soon they were like family to me. I also enjoyed having more of an opportunity to speak to others about Jehovah and teach them wonderful Kingdom truths. All of this made me feel closer to Jehovah and his organization."—Ps. 34:8.

[5] All of us face a battle between our imperfect flesh and our desire to please Jehovah. (Rom. 7:21-23) We must resist the self-sparing spirit of the world. (Matt. 16:22, 23) Jehovah can help us to succeed in this by means of his holy spirit. (Gal. 5:16, 17) As we await our deliverance into God's righteous new world, may we imitate Jesus' mental attitude by putting Kingdom interests and the interests of others ahead of our own.—Matt. 6:33; Rom. 15:1-3.

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1. What mental attitude did Jesus manifest?
2. What challenge do many Christians face, and what can help them to overcome it?
3. How can we imitate Jesus' willingness to teach?
4. How can auxiliary pioneering help us to imitate Christ's mental attitude?
5. Why must we continually put forth effort to imitate Jesus' mental attitude?

## What to Say About the Magazines

### THE WATCHTOWER Apr. 15

"Some people feel that everything that happens in life, including tragedies, is God's will. Have you ever wondered about that? [Allow for response.] Many people know this prayer. [Read Matthew 6:10b.] What is God's will for the earth, and when will it be fully accomplished? This magazine provides the Bible's answer."

### Awake! Apr. 22

"In today's world, some people feel hopeless. Do you sometimes feel that way? [Allow for response. Then read Romans 15:4.] Most people recognize the importance of having hope. You will enjoy considering the seven Scriptural reasons for hope that are presented in this issue of *Awake!*"

### THE WATCHTOWER May 1

"In an effort to improve human society, some religious leaders become involved in politics. However, notice what Jesus did when people wanted to make him king. [Read John 6:15.] Jesus focused on something that would bring lasting good to others. This magazine discusses what that is."

### Awake! May 8

"Many people face challenging situations at work. Some are even harassed by workmates. Did you know that the Bible contains advice that can help us cope with such challenges? [Allow for response. Then read Proverbs 15:1.] This magazine offers practical suggestions on how to maintain peace with others at work."

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

May 2004 For United States of America *km*-E Us 5/04 Vol. 47, No. 5

## Show Your Thankfulness

¹ Although we live in "critical times hard to deal with," we have many reasons to be thankful to Jehovah. (2 Tim. 3:1) Foremost among these is the precious gift of his Son in our behalf. (John 3:16) Further, while those in false religion are starving spiritually, we enjoy an abundance of spiritual food. (Isa. 65:13) We are part of a worldwide brotherhood and are privileged to share in the thrilling expansion of true worship. (Isa. 2:3, 4; 60:4-10, 22) How can we show our thankfulness to Jehovah for the blessings he showers upon us?—Col. 3:15, 17.

² **Joyful, Wholehearted Service:** When discussing material giving, the apostle Paul wrote: "God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Cor. 9:7) This principle also applies to our service to God. Thankfulness is reflected in our enthusiasm for the truth, our joy at Christian meetings, our zeal in the field ministry, and our cheerfulness in carrying out the divine will.—Ps. 107:21, 22; 119:14; 122:1; Rom. 12:8, 11.

³ In ancient Israel the Law did not stipulate a specific amount for certain offerings. Each worshiper could show his gratitude by giving "in proportion to the blessing of Jehovah" that he had received. (Deut. 16:16, 17) Similarly today, a grateful heart will impel us to do as much as our circumstances allow in the Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making work. The summer months often provide added opportunities to show our thankfulness. Some take advantage of time off from work or school and the longer daylight hours to increase their time spent in field service, even to auxiliary pioneer. Can you expand your ministry this summer?

⁴ **Overflowing With Thanks:** A major way we express our thanks to Jehovah is in prayer. (1 Thess. 5:17, 18) God's Word urges us to be "overflowing with faith in thanksgiving." (Col. 2:7) Even when we are very busy or are under stress, we should always include thanksgiving in our daily prayers. (Phil. 4:6) Yes, by means of our ministry as well as our prayers, may we "be rich with many expressions of thanks to God."—2 Cor. 9:12.

## Music That Refreshes

¹ Singing and music are an integral part of true worship. In ancient Israel, Asaph and his brothers sang: "Give thanks to Jehovah, you people. . . . Sing to him, make melody to him, concern yourselves with all his wonderful acts." (1 Chron. 16:8, 9) Today we raise our voices in song to Jehovah at our weekly congregation meetings. (Eph. 5:19) What a marvelous opportunity this is to give praise to his name!—Ps. 69:30.

² Listening to *Kingdom Melodies,* orchestral arrangements of Kingdom songs, can fill our mind with spiritual thoughts. "As the melodies are played, I hear the words in my mind," explained one sister. "What a fine way to keep Jehovah in my thoughts while enjoying music!"—Phil. 4:8.

³ **Occasions to Enjoy Them:** Playing *Kingdom Melodies* at home creates a warm, spiritual atmosphere that contributes to family peace. "We play this [music] over and over in our home and car and never tire of the stirring arrangements," wrote one family. "Often *Kingdom Melodies* have provided the right peaceful mood when getting ready for Christian meetings or when traveling to an assembly." A sister said: "They're a real lift to listen to when I'm doing housework—whoever thought I'd be joyful while folding laundry? I plan to play this music when I find my spirits down. The music has such an exhilarating effect! . . . Every song evokes happiness." Are there occasions when such refreshing music would benefit you?

⁴ Much of today's music reflects the world's spirit. Parents can help their children to cultivate a taste for wholesome music by making good use of the *Kingdom Melodies* recordings. Many Bible students and interested people would also be pleased to know about these beautiful spiritual songs, which glorify Jehovah and uplift the spirit.—Ps. 47:1, 2, 6, 7.

## SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

### Week Starting May 10

Song 193

**10 min:** Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* If the suggestions on page 4 are practical for your congregation territory, use them to demonstrate how to present the May 15 *Watchtower* and the May 22 *Awake!* Other presentations may be used. In each case, demonstrate a different way to handle the conversation stopper "I have my own religion."—See *Reasoning* book, pages 18-19.

**15 min:** Have You Approached Your Employer? Talk and audience discussion by an elder, based on the article "Will *You* Be There?" in the January 2000 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 1. Include comments on the *Ministry School* book, page 67.

**20 min:** "Widen Out."* Include comments on the *Worship God* book, page 150, paragraph 14.

Song 18 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting May 17

Song 188

**10 min:** Local announcements.

**15 min:** "Show Your Thankfulness."* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures. When discussing paragraph 3, have one or two who recently served as auxiliary pioneers comment on the blessings they experienced from doing so.

**20 min:** We Care About One Another. (1 Cor. 12:25, 26) Talk and audience discussion based on *Our Ministry* book, pages 157-9, under the subheading "Concern for One Another." Although Jehovah's people live in all parts of the earth, we are closely united. All of us should pray for our brothers every day. We are also quick to provide material aid when urgent needs exist. Read and discuss key scriptures, and include one or two experiences drawn from our publications.

Song 100 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting May 24

Song 128

**12 min:** Local announcements. Accounts report. Demonstrate how to present the June 1 *Watchtower* and the June 8 *Awake!* Adapt each presentation to appeal to someone of a local religion.

**15 min:** "Music That Refreshes." Talk and audience discussion. Include comments on the *2002 Yearbook,* page 175, and the February 1, 1997, *Watchtower,* page 27, paragraphs 1-2.

**18 min:** Be Prepared to Witness Informally. Talk and audience discussion based on the June 2003 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 3. Arrange in advance for a few to relate experiences they have had when witnessing informally. Briefly demonstrate how the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?* and the booklet *Good News for All Nations* can be used when witnessing informally.

Song 211 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting May 31

Song 26

**8 min:** Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for May.

**17 min:** Life—A Gift to Be Cherished. Audience discussion based on the *Reasoning* book, pages 25-6. Include comments on the May 22, 1993, *Awake!* pages 10-11. How would you explain Jehovah's view of abortion to a person who feels that a woman has a right to decide on matters affecting her own body? Relate the experience in the January 1, 2000, *Watchtower,* page 4, paragraphs 4-5.

**20 min:** "Offering *Learn From the Great Teacher.*" During June we will be offering this publication. Point out the features described on page 7, paragraphs 1-3, of the book. Entertain comments from audience on what they appreciate about it. Review the suggested presentations. Highlight how to feature the pictures when offering the book. Have a youth demonstrate the first presentation, and an adult one of the others. If a different approach would be more effective in the local territory, this may be discussed and demonstrated in place of one of the latter presentations.

Song 24 and concluding prayer.

#### FEBRUARY SERVICE REPORT

| Number of: | | Av. Hrs. | Av. Mags. | Av. R.V. | Av. Bi.St. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sp'l Pios. | 214 | 103.7 | 89.2 | 48.1 | 4.7 |
| Pios. | 92,883 | 63.3 | 40.8 | 20.9 | 2.0 |
| Aux. Pios. | 17,271 | 49.2 | 34.7 | 14.1 | 1.2 |
| Pubs. | 891,192 | 9.2 | 8.1 | 3.6 | 0.4 |
| TOTAL | 1,001,560 | | | Baptized: | 1,463 |

### Week Starting June 7

Song 136

**10 min:** Local announcements. Discuss main points of "A Means to Help Them." Name some of the languages that are encountered in the local territory.

**15 min:** Local needs.

**20 min:** Use Effective Illustrations in Your Teaching. Talk and audience discussion based on the September 1, 2002, *Watchtower,* pages 22-4. What four factors make an illustration effective? Why is it advantageous to keep illustrations simple? Where can we find good illustrations? Examine some of the examples in the box on page 23, and discuss what makes each illustration effective.

Song 133 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **May:** Feature individual copies of both *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* When making return visits on interested people, which may include visiting those who attend the Memorial or other theocratic events but who are not actively associated with the organization, concentrate on placing the *Worship God* book. Every effort should be made to start a home Bible study, especially if some individuals have already studied the *Knowledge* book and the *Require* brochure. **June:** *Learn From the Great Teacher.* If individuals say that they have no children, offer the *Require* brochure. When using the brochure, concentrate on starting home Bible studies. **July and August:** Offer the *Knowledge* book or the *Require* brochure. When householders already have these publications, use another appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock.

- The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on June 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. When this has been done, make an announcement to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.

- Donations made by check and put in the local Kingdom Hall contribution boxes for the worldwide work and the Kingdom Hall Fund should be made payable to "Jehovah's Witnesses." Donations made by check at district conventions and those sent to the branch office should be made payable to "Watch Tower." The branch office financial address is Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, c/o Office of the Secretary and Treasurer, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483.

- While attending the "Walk With God" District Convention, keep in mind the importance of taking brief notes, which will help you to participate in the oral review to be scheduled on the Service Meeting later in the year.

- **DISTRICT CONVENTION CHANGE:** The dates and location for the Armenian-language district convention have been changed to August 27-29, 2004, at the Assembly Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 1001 Parkridge Ave., Norco, California.

- Beginning with the May literature shipment, the annual supply of congregation forms is being shipped to congregations as forms become available. Instructions regarding forms distribution will appear on the shipment packing list. When there is more than one congregation in a Kingdom Hall auditorium, the literature coordinator should make sure that each congregation receives its supply of forms as soon as they arrive.

## A Means to Help Them

True Christians share in the public ministry of spreading the good news. (Phil. 2:17) As a means to that end, some basic brochures, tracts, and articles in 20 languages have been on the Internet at www.watchtower.org. This Web site is not designed to distribute current publications to Jehovah's Witnesses. Its objective is to make available *to the public* accurate information about what Jehovah's Witnesses teach from the Bible.

Recently, there has been a significant addition to our official Web site. This is the brochure *What Does God Require of Us?* in over 220 languages. Also, with the issues of January 1 and January 8, 2004, *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* in all languages began showing our Web address on the back page.

How can you use this tool? Well, you may meet a person who seems interested but understands only another language. If he has access to the Internet, you can point out the Web address on the back page of *The Watchtower* or *Awake!* That way he may be able to examine the *Require* brochure in his native tongue until you can return with literature in his language. Or you may be able to refer the call to the congregation or group that cares for his language.

## Offering *Learn From the Great Teacher*

- "Do you think that the world would be a better place if people lived by this saying? [Read Matthew 7:12a. Then allow for response.] This book contains many lessons from the greatest teacher who ever lived." Highlight the pictures and captions in chapter 17.

- "Most parents today try to instill wholesome values in their children. Do you feel that this is important? [Allow for response. Then read Proverbs 22:6.] Notice that parents are encouraged to start training their children from an early age. This book is designed to help them to do that." Highlight the pictures and captions in chapter 15, 18, or 32.

- "Often parents are amazed at the questions their children ask. Some of those questions can be hard to answer, isn't that so? [Allow for response. Then read 2 Timothy 3:14, 15.] Timothy's mother and grandmother taught him from infancy what the Scriptures say. This book can help parents do the same for their children today." Highlight a few of the pictures and captions in chapters 11 and 12 or 34 to 36.

# "Widen Out"

1 In the Christian brotherhood, each of us has a responsibility to contribute to the warmth of the congregation. (1 Pet. 1:22; 2:17) Such warmth is generated when we "widen out" in our tender affections for one another. (2 Cor. 6:12, 13) Why is it important to get to know our brothers and sisters well?

2 **Friendships Grow Stronger:** As we become better acquainted with fellow believers, we come to appreciate their faith, endurance, and other fine qualities more fully. Their shortcomings seem smaller to us, and the bonds of friendship grow. Knowing one another well, we are in a better position to build up and comfort one another. (1 Thess. 5:11) We can become "a strengthening aid" to one another to resist the unwholesome influences of Satan's world. (Col. 4:11) In view of these pressure-filled last days, how grateful we are to have good friends among Jehovah's people!—Prov. 18:24.

3 Close friends can be a special source of strength and comfort when we face severe trials. (Prov. 17:17) One Christian who struggled with feelings of worthlessness recalls: "There were friends who would say positive things about me to help me overcome the negative thoughts I had." Such friends are a blessing from Jehovah. —Prov. 27:9.

4 **Reach Out to Others:** How can we widen out in our tender affections for fellow believers? In addition to greeting others at Christian meetings, make an effort to engage them in meaningful conversation. Without prying into their private matters, show personal interest. (Phil. 2:4; 1 Pet. 4:15) Another way to reach out to others is by inviting them over for a meal. (Luke 14:12-14) Or you might arrange to work with them in the field ministry. (Luke 10:1) As we take the initiative to get to know our brothers better, we foster unity in the congregation.—Col. 3:14.

5 Do we tend to choose our close associates only from among those of our age group or those whose interests are similar to our own? We should not let such factors limit the friendships we cultivate in the congregation. David and Jonathan as well as Ruth and Naomi forged strong bonds of friendship despite differences in age and background. (Ruth 4:15; 1 Sam. 18:1) Can you expand your friendships? Doing so can bring unanticipated blessings.

6 By widening out in our tender affections for others, we strengthen one another and promote peace in the congregation. Furthermore, Jehovah himself blesses us for the love we show our brothers. (Ps. 41:1, 2; Heb. 6:10) Why not make it your goal to get better acquainted with as many as possible?

1. What responsibility does each of us have?
2. Why is it important to develop friendships with fellow believers?
3. How can we be a strengthening aid to others?
4. How can we get to know others in the congregation better?
5. What is one way to expand our friendships?
6. What are some benefits of widening out in our tender affections for our brothers?

## What to Say About the Magazines

◆

### THE WATCHTOWER May 15

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"Have you ever wondered if the things humans do on earth have any effect on God? [Allow for response.] Notice how our actions can affect God's feelings. [Read Proverbs 27:11.] This magazine considers some examples of people who made God's heart rejoice, and it explains how we can do the same."

### Awake! May 22

"Medical science has made remarkable progress in fighting disease, but do you think we will ever see a world completely free from sickness? [Allow for response.] This magazine explains that one day everyone on earth will enjoy perfect health in fulfillment of this promise." Read Isaiah 33:24.

### THE WATCHTOWER June 1

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"Some people feel that it is not necessary to be part of an organized religion to worship God. Have you ever wondered about that? [Allow for response.] This magazine examines the record of God's dealings with people in times past. It also considers what it means to worship God with truth." Read John 4:24.

### Awake! June 8

"Many people today experience loneliness. This involves a feeling of being cut off from others. Wouldn't you agree that this can be painful? [Allow for response. Then read Psalm 25:16.] This issue of *Awake!* offers practical suggestions for combating loneliness."

# OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

June 2004 For United States of America *km*-E Us 6/04 Vol. 47, No. 6

## Jehovah Helps Those Who Trust Him

[1] Many people view money, power, and human ability as keys to success. (Ps. 12:4; 33:16, 17; 49:6) However, those who fear Jehovah and place their trust in him have the Bible's assurance that "he is their help and their shield." (Ps. 115:11) Let us consider two areas in which we need to demonstrate trust in Jehovah.

[2] **As Christian Ministers:** Whenever we handle assignments in the congregation or teach in the field ministry, we must rely on our God. Consider Jesus' example. Although he was God's Son, he did not trust in his own wisdom or ability but relied completely on his heavenly Father. (John 12:49; 14:10) How much more so do we need to do the same! (Prov. 3:5-7) Only with Jehovah's blessing will our humble efforts honor him and benefit others.—Ps. 127:1, 2.

[3] We demonstrate our reliance on Jehovah by praying for his guidance and the help of his holy spirit. (Ps. 105:4; Luke 11:13) In addition, we show our trust in God by basing our teaching on his Word, the Bible. Its message has the power to touch hearts and transform lives. (Heb. 4:12) When we "minister as dependent on the strength that God supplies," Jehovah is glorified.—1 Pet. 4:11.

[4] **Dealing With Problems:** We also need to look to Jehovah for help when facing pressures and problems. (Ps. 46:1) For example, an employer may hesitate to give us time off to attend an assembly, or we may face a challenging situation in our family life. We show our trust in Jehovah by earnestly petitioning him and applying the guidance that he provides through his Word and organization. (Ps. 62:8; 119:143, 173) By so doing, Jehovah's servants experience his helping hand in their lives.—Ps. 37:5; 118:13, 16.

[5] Jehovah himself assures us: "Blessed is the able-bodied man who puts his trust in Jehovah, and whose confidence Jehovah has become." (Jer. 17:7) May we demonstrate our trust in him in all that we do! —Ps. 146:5.

## The Angels Are Helping Us

[1] "Look! I am with you all the days until the conclusion of the system of things." How encouraging those words are to all those heeding Jesus' command: "Go therefore and make disciples"! (Matt. 28:18-20) One significant way that Jesus is with true Christians is by means of his angels. (Matt. 13:36-43) How thrilling it is to declare the "everlasting good news" in unison with these faithful spirit creatures!—Rev. 14:6, 7.

[2] **In Our Ministry:** The Bible reveals that the angels are sent "*to minister for those* who are going to inherit salvation." (Heb. 1:14) In the first century, the angels were involved in directing Jesus' followers to deserving ones. (Acts 8:26) Today, God's servants continue to see evidence of angelic direction. On many occasions, householders have said that they had been praying for help when a Witness came to their door. How we, along with the angels, rejoice when such ones respond to the Kingdom message!—Luke 15:10.

[3] **Facing Opposition:** Daniel, his three young Hebrew companions, the apostle Peter, and many others who have undergone great tests have experienced Jehovah's protection by means of angels, "mighty in power." (Ps. 103:20; Dan. 3:28; 6:21, 22; Acts 12:11) Although at times we may feel helpless in the face of opposition, we can be encouraged by the experience of Elisha's attendant when he learned that "there are more who are with us than those who are with them." (2 Ki. 6:15-17) Even if we are forcibly separated from our Christian brothers, we need not despair. God's Word assures us: "The angel of Jehovah is camping all around those fearing him."—Ps. 34:7.

[4] Soon angelic armies will ride forth to remove all opposition to Christ's kingship. (Rev. 19:11, 14, 15) While we await that day, may we continue boldly praising Jehovah, fully confident of the powerful support of heavenly armies under Christ's command.—1 Pet. 3:22.

## SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

### Week Starting June 14

Song 168

**10 min:** Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Use the suggestions on page 4 (if appropriate for your territory) to demonstrate how to present the June 15 *Watchtower* and the June 22 *Awake!* In one presentation, show the publisher witnessing in business territory. Other realistic presentations may be used.

**20 min:** "Jehovah Helps Those Who Trust Him."* When discussing paragraph 4, include comments on the December 1999 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 4, paragraphs 8-9, and the *Ministry School* book, page 67, paragraph 2.

**15 min:** Why Avoid the Abuse of Drugs? Audience discussion based on the *Reasoning* book, pages 106-9. The "recreational" use of drugs is common. Many insist that such use of drugs is not harmful; some even advocate legalization. Discuss how we might reason with such ones. Include comments in box on page 10 of November 8, 1999, *Awake!*

Song 179 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting June 21

Song 29

**10 min:** Local announcements.

**15 min:** "The Angels Are Helping Us."* Invite audience to comment on cited scriptures as time permits.

**20 min:** The Wisdom From Above Is Reasonable. (Jas. 3:17) Talk and audience discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, pages 251-2. What does it mean to be reasonable? Why is it important in our ministry? What can we learn from the apostle Paul's example? How can publishers take into consideration the background of people in the local territory? How can we help Bible students to display reasonableness? Arrange in advance for one or two to relate experiences that show the benefits of a reasonable approach.

Song 53 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting June 28

Song 139

**12 min:** Local announcements. Accounts report. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for June. Using the suggestions on page 4 (if appropriate for your territory), demonstrate how to present the July 1 *Watchtower* and the July 8 *Awake!* In each case, have the publisher make a brief, friendly comment at the outset. Mention that doing so can help to put the householder at ease.

**15 min:** Local needs.

**18 min:** "The Congregation Book Study—Why We Need It."* Use the questions that are provided. Include comments on the article "Assist Your Congregation Book Study Overseer," which appeared on page 1 of the November 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry.*

Song 20 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting July 5

Song 3

**10 min:** Local announcements.

**15 min:** What Will You Say? Talk and audience discussion. During July and August, we will be offering the *Knowledge* book and *Require* brochure. Review a few of the suggested presentations from the January 2002 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert. Demonstrate one of the suggested presentations in the box "The Direct Approach" on page 6, including a brief consideration of one paragraph. Encourage all to be prepared to demonstrate our offer of a Bible study whenever the opportunity presents itself.

**20 min:** What Children Need From Parents. Talk and audience discussion based on *Learn From the Great Teacher,* pages 6-7. It is vital for children to learn the Bible principles governing true worship and to understand the key role played by parents in the training process. Discuss the suggestions made for studying the book. Invite parents to comment on how they have made use of the study aid. Have one or two children tell why they appreciate this publication.

Song 65 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

### MARCH SERVICE REPORT

| Number of: | | Av. Hrs. | Av. Mags. | Av. R.V. | Av. Bi.St. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sp'l Pios. | 259 | 97.5 | 85.3 | 44.9 | 4.4 |
| Pios. | 91,502 | 69.9 | 45.3 | 23.2 | 2.1 |
| Aux. Pios. | 71,054 | 49.7 | 35.8 | 12.9 | 1.0 |
| Pubs. | 821,793 | 9.7 | 8.4 | 3.7 | 0.3 |
| TOTAL | 984,608 | Baptized: 1,827 | | | |

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **June:** *Learn From the Great Teacher*. If individuals say they have no children, offer the *Require* brochure. When using the brochure, concentrate on starting home Bible studies. **July and August:** Offer the *Knowledge* book or the *Require* brochure. When householders already have these publications, use another appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock. **September:** *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?* As an alternative offer, you may feature *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?*

■ The branch facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, will be closed on the following Saturdays: September 11, 2004 (Gilead graduation); October 2, 2004 (annual meeting of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania); March 12, 2005 (Gilead graduation); and May 14, 2005 (spring cleaning). There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on those dates.

■ In order to ensure the security of the Kingdom Hall, the last person to leave the building should lock the door and engage any other security measures. If that person is unable to secure the building, he should call someone who can and then wait until that one arrives before leaving. The elders should maintain an updated list of responsible publishers who have been issued Kingdom Hall keys.

■ A consideration of the video *Respect Jehovah's Authority* will be outlined in the September issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Copies of the video are available in American Sign Language, Chinese, English, Japanese, and Spanish. All congregations are reminded to request these with their next literature request as needed.

## THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning June 28, 2004. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of May 3 through June 28, 2004. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

### SPEECH QUALITIES

1. What factors may cause us to lack conversational style or to sound too formal when speaking from the platform? [*be* p. 179 par. 4]
2. Why is improvement of our voice quality not merely a matter of breathing properly and relaxing tense muscles? [*be* p. 181 par. 2]
3. As we share Bible truths with others, what practical steps can we take to "become all things to people of all sorts"? (1 Cor. 9:20-23) [*be* p. 186 pars. 2-4]
4. What is involved in listening attentively in our ministry? [*be* p. 187]
5. Why is it important to show respect for everyone we meet in our ministry? [*be* p. 190]

### ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. What is the goal of those who impart theocratic instruction, and what will help us to reach this goal? (Matt. 5:16; John 7:16-18) [*be* p. 56 par. 3–p. 57 par. 2]
7. Why is it beneficial to draw contrasts when teaching, and how did Jesus employ this teaching method? [*be* p. 57 par. 3; p. 58 par. 2]
8. In contrast with the Pharisees, how did Jesus' teaching reach for the hearts of people? [*be* p. 59 pars. 2-3]
9. How can we help those whom we teach to apply what they learn, without making decisions for them? [*be* p. 60 pars. 1-3]
10. How should we respond to questions from others about matters for personal decision? [*be* p. 69 pars. 4-5]

### WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. Why did Moses have to follow closely "the pattern of the tabernacle and pattern of all its furnishings"? (Ex. 25:9) [*it*-2 p. 1058 par. 7]
12. What can we learn from Aaron's response to Moses regarding the golden calf incident? (Ex. 32:24)
13. What can we learn from the Israelites' demonstration of faith in obedience to Jehovah's command at Exodus 34:23, 24?
14. What was the purpose of a communion sacrifice? (Lev. 3:1)
15. How does the installation procedure in connection with Aaron, recorded at Leviticus 8:23, apply antitypically to Jesus? [*it*-2 p. 1113 par. 4; *w*68 p. 399 par. 24]

# The Congregation Book Study —Why We Need It

[1] In 1895, study groups of the Bible Students, as Jehovah's Witnesses were then called, came to be known as Dawn Circles for Bible Study. Volumes of *Millennial Dawn* were used as the basis for study. Later, these meetings were called Berean Circles for Bible Study. (Acts 17:11) Often a group of moderate size met in a private home on an evening convenient to the group. These meetings were the forerunners of the Congregation Book Study.

[2] **Encouragement and Assistance:** Since book study groups are purposely kept small, there is greater opportunity for those in attendance to make expressions of their faith. The result is "an interchange of encouragement . . . , each one through the other's faith."—Rom. 1:12.

[3] Observing the book study overseer's manner of teaching can help us to 'handle the word of the truth aright.' (2 Tim. 2:15) Take note of how he emphasizes the Scriptural basis of the material. If appropriate for the publication being considered, he may highlight key points by means of a concluding review, using just the Bible. His good example can help us to improve our teaching in the Christian ministry. —1 Cor. 11:1.

[4] In addition to conducting the weekly lesson, the book study overseer takes the lead in evangelizing. In cooperation with the service overseer, he makes practical arrangements for field service. He seeks to assist all in the group to fulfill their Christian responsibility to preach the good news and make disciples.—Matt. 28:19, 20; 1 Cor. 9:16.

[5] The book study overseer is interested in the spiritual welfare of each one in the group. He demonstrates this interest at congregation meetings and as he works with others in field service. He also uses occasions when he visits the brothers in their homes to share a spiritual gift. All should feel welcome to approach the book study overseer for spiritual assistance whenever they have a need.—Isa. 32:1, 2.

[6] **Strengthen One Another:** In lands where the activity of God's people is restricted, the brothers often meet in smaller groups. One brother recalled: "Even though our Christian activities were banned, whenever possible we held our weekly meetings in groups of between 10 and 15. From the meetings we derived spiritual strength, from both our Bible study and our association after the study. We would compare our experiences, and this helped us to realize that each of us had the same struggle." (1 Pet. 5:9) May we, likewise, strengthen one another by fully supporting the Congregation Book Study arrangement.—Eph. 4:16.

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1. What were the early beginnings of the Congregation Book Study arrangement?

2. How can we contribute to "an interchange of encouragement" at the book study?

3, 4. How does the book study arrangement help us to accomplish our ministry?

5. What personal assistance is available through the book study?

6. (a) How have our brothers in certain lands been strengthened by meeting in smaller groups? (b) How have you personally benefited from the book study arrangement?

## What to Say About the Magazines

◆

**THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM June 15**

"Wouldn't you agree that training children in today's modern world is a challenge? [Allow for response.] Notice this assurance that parents can succeed. [Read Proverbs 22:6.] This issue of *The Watchtower* offers practical advice to help parents meet this challenge."

**Awake! June 22**

"Some feel it is unscientific to believe in God. But did you know that there are scientists who say that science actually supports belief in a Creator? [Allow for response.] This issue of *Awake!* considers some of the evidence that has caused them to reach that conclusion." Read Romans 1:20.

**THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM July 1**

"In times of tragedy, many question whether God really cares about people and notices their suffering. Have you ever wondered about that? [Allow for response.] This magazine discusses how God shows concern for us today and how he has provided the basis for eliminating all suffering." Read John 3:16.

**Awake! July 8**

"For many people, the teen years are a time of both joys and challenges, wouldn't you agree? [Allow for response.] This magazine discusses the changes that adolescents undergo. It also examines some sage advice that can help them make the best of their teen years." Read Ecclesiastes 12:1.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

July 2004 For United States of America *km*-E Us 7/04 Vol. 47, No. 7

## Imitate Jehovah's Justice

[1] "Jehovah is a lover of justice." (Ps. 37:28) Thus, although he has decreed that this unrighteous world be destroyed, he has arranged for a warning to be sounded first. (Mark 13:10) This affords people the opportunity to repent and be saved. (2 Pet. 3:9) Do we strive to imitate Jehovah's justice? Does the misery and suffering of the human family move us to share the Kingdom hope with others? (Prov. 3:27) Love of justice will impel us to have an active share in preaching.

[2] **Preach With Impartiality:** By declaring God's purpose to everyone without partiality, we "exercise justice." (Mic. 6:8) We must resist the imperfect inclination to prejudge others based on their outward appearance. (Jas. 2:1-4, 9) Jehovah's "will is that all sorts of men should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth." (1 Tim. 2:4) God's word of truth can cause remarkable changes in the lives of people. (Heb. 4:12) Appreciating this fact can move us to approach individuals with confidence, even those who may have turned a deaf ear in the past.

[3] One sister working in a store was somewhat frightened by the physical appearance of a regular customer. Nevertheless, when the appropriate occasion arose, she tried to witness to him about God's promised Paradise. He brusquely replied that he did not believe in fairy tales and that he was a hippie and drug addict. But she did not give up. One day he asked her what she thought about his long hair, so she tactfully explained what the Bible says on the matter. (1 Cor. 11:14) To her pleasant surprise, the next day he was clean-shaven and had short hair! He asked for a Bible study, which a brother was happy to conduct, and progressed to dedication and baptism. Like this man, many who are serving Jehovah today are grateful for the impartial, persistent efforts of those who brought them the Kingdom message.

[4] Jehovah will soon wipe unrighteousness from the face of the earth. (2 Pet. 3:10, 13) In the limited time remaining, may we imitate Jehovah's justice by giving all an opportunity to escape the coming destruction of Satan's unrighteous world. —1 John 2:17.

## Conducting Progressive Bible Studies

### Part 1: What Is a Bible Study?

[1] Worldwide, about six million Bible studies are being conducted by God's people each month. By using good teaching methods, we can help these Bible students progress to the point of dedication and baptism and become "adequately qualified to teach others." (2 Tim. 2:2) Would you like to help your student to make such progress? Starting with this issue, *Our Kingdom Ministry* will feature a series of articles that will explain basic aspects of conducting progressive Bible studies.

[2] **When to Report a Bible Study:** If you regularly and systematically have Bible discussions, though brief, using the Bible along with one of the recommended publications, you are conducting a Bible study. This is true even if the study takes place on the doorstep or over the telephone. The study may be reported when it has been conducted two times after the study arrangement is demonstrated and if there is reason to believe that the study will continue.

[3] The *Require* brochure and the *Knowledge* book are publications used for conducting many Bible studies. After they have been completed, if it is evident that a person is making progress, even slowly, and that he is developing appreciation for what he is learning, then the study may be continued in the *Worship God* book. The brochure *You Can Be God's Friend!* may be used to study with people who have limited education or reading ability.

[4] The Bible study work has been effective in assisting millions to become true disciples of Jesus Christ. (Matt. 28:19, 20) By applying the suggestions offered in upcoming articles of this series, you can conduct a progressive Bible study.

## SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

### Week Starting July 12

Song 108

**12 min:** Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Using the suggestions on page 4, demonstrate how to present the July 15 *Watchtower* and the July 22 *Awake!* In one presentation, demonstrate offering a magazine to someone on the street who does not speak your language well.

**18 min:** "Imitate Jehovah's Justice."* As time permits, invite audience to comment on the cited scriptures.

**15 min:** The Bible—A Book of Reliable Predictions. Talk and audience discussion based on the brochure *A Book for All People,* pages 27-9. In our ministry, we often meet people who are interested in the future. The Bible provides reliable information outlining a bright future for obedient mankind. Consider some Bible prophecies that promote confidence in future Bible predictions. Have a publisher briefly demonstrate how Bible events can be used to help an interested person build his confidence in the Bible.

Song 16 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting July 19

Song 83

**10 min:** Local announcements. Discuss the importance of maintaining a regular program of daily Bible reading, even when summer activities take us out of our normal routine. Include comments on the August 15, 2000, *Watchtower,* page 32.

**15 min:** Local needs.

**20 min:** "Conducting Progressive Bible Studies—Part 1." A talk to be handled by the service overseer. Allow the audience to comment on material in the *Proclaimers* book, pages 572-4, outlining the development of the Bible study work in modern times. Build enthusiasm for the upcoming series of articles. Among the topics that will be considered are how to prepare to conduct the study, how to help the student to prepare, how much material to cover, how to use scriptures effectively, how to handle questions raised by the student, how to introduce prayer, and how to direct the student to the organization. Encourage all to apply the suggestions provided and to keep these articles for future reference.

Song 10 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting July 26

Song 216

**12 min:** Local announcements. Accounts report. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for July. Using the suggestions on page 4, demonstrate how to present the August 1 *Watchtower* and the August 8 *Awake!* In each case, show a different way to handle the conversation stopper "Why do you people call so often?"—See *Reasoning* book, page 20.

**8 min:** Question Box. To be handled by an elder. Read and discuss entire article.

**25 min:** "How to Preach in Business Territory."* Mention local arrangements for working businesses. Briefly demonstrate the two presentations in paragraphs 4-5 or another approach that has been effective locally. As time permits, invite audience to share positive experiences they have had working business territory.

Song 173 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting August 2

Song 60

**8 min:** Local announcements.

**22 min:** Do You Give Reasons? Talk and discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, page 254, paragraphs 1-2. When we explain and apply scriptures in the field ministry and from the platform, our teaching will be more effective if we give reasons for what we say instead of simply asserting that it is so. Using examples from the *Reasoning* book or others that are appropriate for the local territory, show how to (1) isolate and explain key expressions in a scripture text, (2) present supporting evidence from the context or from another scripture that deals with the subject, (3) use an illustration to show the reasonableness of what you have said, and (4) use questions to help the listeners reason on the matter. Highlight the benefits of using a reasoning approach.

**15 min:** Local experiences. Invite audience to relate some upbuilding experiences in connection with attending the district convention, auxiliary pioneering, or sharing in other spiritual activities thus far during the summer.

Song 32 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

**APRIL SERVICE REPORT**

| Number of: | | Av. Hrs. | Av. Mags. | Av. R.V. | Av. Bi.St. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sp'l Pios. | **199** | **99.0** | **105.3** | **47.3** | **4.6** |
| Pios. | **91,839** | **67.3** | **44.9** | **22.4** | **2.1** |
| Aux. Pios. | **80,041** | **48.5** | **36.6** | **12.3** | **0.9** |
| Pubs. | **835,695** | **9.6** | **8.3** | **3.6** | **0.3** |
| TOTAL | **1,007,774** | | Baptized: **2,583** | | |

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **July and August:** Offer the *Knowledge* book or the *Require* brochure. When householders already have these publications, use another appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock. **September:** *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?* As an alternative offer, you may feature *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, offer the *Require* brochure, making a special effort to start Bible studies.

■ Since October will have five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

■ Starting in September, circuit overseers will give the public talk entitled "Facing the Future With Faith and Courage."

■ Congregation secretaries should maintain an adequate supply of the forms *Application for Regular Pioneer Service* (S-205) and *Application for Auxiliary Pioneer Service* (S-205b). These can be ordered on the *Literature Request Form* (S-14). Maintain at least a one-year supply.

■ Before submitting applications for regular pioneer service to the branch office, the congregation secretary should review the forms to make sure they are complete. If applicants cannot recall the exact date of their baptism, they should estimate the date and keep a record of it. The secretary should note this date on the *Congregation's Publisher Record* card.

■ Whenever personal travel plans include attending congregation meetings, an assembly, or a district convention in another land, your request for information regarding dates, times, and locations must be directed to the branch office that oversees the work in that land. Addresses of branch offices are listed on the last page of the current *Yearbook.*

■ Because of the transfer of printing operations to Wallkill, New York, and the sale of the 360 Furman Street building, the following tour changes will take effect at the branch facilities in Brooklyn, New York. Tours of 117 Adams Street will be suspended on July 31, 2004, until further notice. Tours of 360 Furman Street will be discontinued as of October 6, 2004. Tours of the residential building at 90 Sands Street and the 25-30 Columbia Heights office complex will continue to be available to visitors.

■ On August 27 and 28, 2004, an inventory will be taken of all literature on hand at Brooklyn Bethel. Because of this, no congregation literature requests will be processed for pickup during those days.

■ If it is necessary to correspond with the branch office regarding congregation literature requests, including Braille, please use the following address or telephone number as of September 1, 2004: Watchtower, 1000 Red Mills Road, Wallkill, NY, 12589-3299, telephone (845) 744-6000. *Literature Request Forms* (S-14) should be mailed to the above address or faxed to (845) 744-9000.

## QUESTION BOX

■ How should personal copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* be obtained?

Since the subscription arrangement for both the printed and audiocassette editions of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* in all languages was discontinued some time ago, all publishers should obtain their magazines, audiocassettes, and MP3 CD's through the local congregation. The exception would be Braille magazines and audiocassettes that are mailed as free matter for those who qualify. Please note that congregations may request magazines on audiocassette or MP3 CD's on a *Congregation Requests* (M-202) form. Foreign-language and large-print editions should likewise be requested using this form.

If someone in your territory requests regular magazine delivery, please be sure to follow through promptly so that not even one issue is missed. Disfellowshipped persons may obtain the magazines or other literature for their personal use at the magazine and literature counter at the Kingdom Hall. Disfellowshipped persons should *not* be included on a personal magazine route.

The only subscriptions that the United States branch will maintain on file are for those who cannot be served by a congregation publisher through a magazine route. If the Congregation Service Committee submits a request for subscriptions for someone who cannot otherwise obtain them, the secretary should include a brief note verifying that this subscription request has been reviewed and approved by the Congregation Service Committee.

This means that publishers should not write to the branch office to request personal subscriptions. Any such requests for subscriptions made by publishers or by interested persons will be referred back to the congregation.

■ How can a prison inmate obtain personal copies of the magazines?

If the congregation caring for the preaching work at a penal institution can supply the magazines to inmates confined there, then an inmate should obtain his personal copies of the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines through the visiting publishers. When this is not possible, the inmate may personally request subscriptions by writing to the branch office. Please note that disfellowshipped inmates may likewise obtain personal copies of the magazines as outlined in this paragraph.

# How to Preach in Business Territory

[1] Would you like to preach in territory where people generally welcome visitors and where not-at-homes are rare? You may be able to do so right in your congregation territory. How? By calling on the businesses found there. Publishers witnessing from store to store often enjoy good results.

[2] Some congregations have business districts as part of their assigned territory. The brother caring for the territory may prepare special map cards of these heavily concentrated business sections. Any residential territory map cards that overlap them should clearly indicate that the businesses are not to be worked as part of the territory. In other territories, businesses can be worked along with the residences. If you have never done business witnessing, start by trying a few smaller stores.

[3] **Use a Simple Approach:** When witnessing from store to store, it is important to dress as you would for a meeting at the Kingdom Hall. It is also good to choose a time when the store is not busy. If possible, enter when there are no customers waiting to be served. Ask to speak to the manager or the person in charge. Be brief and to the point. What might you say?

[4] When speaking with a storekeeper or manager, you might say something like this: "Business people have such full schedules that we rarely find them at home, so we are visiting you at your workplace. Our magazines give a global perspective on current events." Then feature one brief point from one magazine.

[5] Or you might try this simple approach: "Many people would like to know more about the Bible but have very little time. This tract explains a free study program that is available to help you find answers to your Bible questions." Then point out pages 4-5 of the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?*

[6] If the person in charge seems to be busy, you might just offer a tract and say: "I will stop by again when you are not so busy. I would like to know what you think of this tract."

[7] **Cultivating Interest Shown:** You may even be able to conduct a Bible study in business territory. A special pioneer regularly delivered the magazines to a businessman. When the man expressed appreciation for what he was reading, the pioneer demonstrated the Bible study arrangement, using the *Require* brochure. A study was established right there at the man's place of work. Taking into account the circumstances, the pioneer limited it to 10 or 15 minutes each time. May we, likewise, continue to search for deserving ones by witnessing in business territory.

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1. What are some advantages of witnessing in business territory?

2. How can business witnessing be organized?

3. What will help us to be effective when witnessing from store to store?

4-6. What can we say when witnessing to a storekeeper or manager?

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7. How can we cultivate the interest we find in business territory?

## What to Say About the Magazines

**THE WATCHTOWER** ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **July 15**

"If an event such as this [what is illustrated on the cover] was reported in the news nowadays, most people would probably be skeptical. What do you think? [Allow for response. Then read Mark 4:39.] What evidence is there that the miracles performed by Jesus were authentic? This issue of *The Watchtower* examines this question."

**Awake! July 22**

"In today's world, criminals are constantly devising new schemes to defraud unsuspecting people. Does this concern you? [Allow for response.] This issue of *Awake!* discusses a few basic precautions that can help us to protect ourselves against fraud." Read Proverbs 22:3.

**THE WATCHTOWER** ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **Aug. 1**

"With mankind so divided, some feel that the only way to achieve world peace is by means of a world government. Do you think such a thing is possible? [Allow for response. Then read Daniel 2:44.] This magazine considers what God's Kingdom is accomplishing now and how it will soon bring about world peace."

**Awake! Aug. 8**

"All of us are saddened when we hear of the exploitation of children. Perhaps you have wondered, 'Does God really care?' [Allow for response. Then read Psalm 72:12-14.] This article discusses how God feels about children and how he will soon bring permanent relief to all who suffer mistreatment."

# OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

August 2004 For United States of America *km*-E Us 8/04 Vol. 47, No. 8

## Endurance Is Rewarded

[1] "By endurance on your part you will acquire your souls." (Luke 21:19) Those words, which form part of Jesus' prophecy concerning "the conclusion of the system of things," make clear that in keeping our integrity, we must be prepared to face many trials. But in Jehovah's strength, each of us can 'endure to the end' and "be saved."—Matt. 24:3, 13; Phil. 4:13.

[2] Persecution, health problems, financial difficulties, and emotional distress can make each day a trial. We must never forget, however, that Satan is trying to break our integrity to Jehovah. Each day that we remain loyal to our Father is another day in which we have helped furnish a reply to the Taunter's challenge. How rewarding it is to know that our "tears" in the face of trial are not forgotten! They are precious to Jehovah, and our integrity makes his heart glad!—Ps. 56:8; Prov. 27:11.

[3] **Refined by Trials:** Affliction can show up a weakness of faith or a personality flaw, such as pride or impatience. Rather than seeking to evade or end trials by unscriptural means, we must heed the counsel of God's Word to "let endurance have its work complete." Why? Because faithfully enduring trials helps us to become "complete and sound in all respects." (Jas. 1:2-4) Endurance can help us to cultivate priceless qualities, such as reasonableness, empathy, and mercy.—Rom. 12:15.

[4] **Tested Quality of Faith:** When we endure trials, we acquire a tested quality of faith that has great value in the eyes of God. (1 Pet. 1:6, 7) Such faith equips us to remain steadfast through future trials. Moreover, we can sense God's approval, and this strengthens our hope, making it more real to us. —Rom. 5:3-5.

[5] The ultimate reward for endurance is highlighted at James 1:12, which says: "Happy is the man that keeps on enduring trial, because on becoming approved he will receive the crown of life." Hence, let us remain steadfast in our devotion to Jehovah, confident that he will richly reward "those who continue loving him."

## Conducting Progressive Bible Studies
### Part 2: Preparing to Conduct the Study

[1] Teaching effectively on a Bible study involves more than just discussing the material and looking up the cited scriptures. We need to present the information in a way that touches the student's heart. This requires thorough preparation with the student in mind.—Prov. 15:28.

[2] **How to Prepare:** Begin by praying to Jehovah about the person and his needs. Ask Jehovah to help you reach the student's heart. (Col. 1:9, 10) To get the theme clearly in mind, take a moment to consider the title of the chapter or lesson, the subheadings, and any visual aids. Ask yourself, 'What is the thrust of the material?' This will help you to focus on the main points as you conduct the study.

[3] Carefully review the material paragraph by paragraph. Identify the answers to the printed questions, marking only the key words and phrases. Analyze how the cited scriptures relate to the main point of the paragraph, and decide which ones to read during the study. You may find it helpful to make brief notes in the margin of the publication. The student should clearly see that what he is learning is from God's Word.—1 Thess. 2:13.

[4] **Personalize the Lesson:** Next, consider the lesson with the particular student in mind. Try to anticipate his questions and the points that he may have difficulty understanding or accepting. Ask yourself: 'What does he need to understand or work on in order to make spiritual progress? How can I reach his heart?' Then adapt your teaching accordingly. At times, you may see a need to prepare an illustration, an explanation, or a series of questions to help the student grasp the meaning of a certain point or scripture. (Neh. 8:8) But avoid inserting additional information that contributes little to the theme. A brief review at the end of the study will help him to retain the main points.

[5] What joy we have when new ones bear righteous fruit to Jehovah's praise! (Phil. 1:11) To help them reach that goal, prepare well each time you conduct a Bible study.

# SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

## Week Starting August 9

Song 57

**10 min:** Local announcements and selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* If the suggestions on page 8 are practical for your congregation territory, use them to demonstrate how to present the August 15 *Watchtower* and the August 22 *Awake!* Other presentations may be used. Include mention of the donation arrangement. Remind audience to bring a copy of the *Require* brochure next week.

**15 min:** "Endurance Is Rewarded."* Include brief comments on the December 15, 2000, *Watchtower,* pages 22-3, paragraphs 15-18.

**20 min:** Using Tracts to Start Bible Studies. Talk and audience discussion based on the November 2001 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* pages 3-4. Highlight that we are willing to adjust to the circumstances of each student, as noted in paragraph 5. Include one or two brief demonstrations based on paragraphs 8-10. If another approach is effective locally, explain and demonstrate that presentation instead. Invite audience to relate experiences they have had using the tract *Would You Like to Know More About the Bible?*

Song 74 and concluding prayer.

## Week Starting August 16

Song 189

**10 min:** Local announcements.

**15 min:** Inculcate the Truth in Your Children. Talk based on the *Family Happiness* book, pages 55-9. Discuss the four ways parents can help their children to form a close personal relationship with Jehovah, making practical application of the material.

**20 min:** "Conducting Progressive Bible Studies—Part 2."* Include a five-minute demonstration. A publisher asks an elder how to help a Bible student to progress. The elder mentions that a common pitfall is spending too much time during the study discussing minor details and side points. Using lesson 9 of the *Require* brochure, he shows the publisher how to (1) focus on the main points in the material, (2) use the cited scriptures effectively, and (3) tailor the lesson to the needs of the student. He notes that good preparation is needed each time a study is conducted.

Song 85 and concluding prayer.

## Week Starting August 23

Song 33

**15 min:** Local announcements. Accounts report. Demonstrate how to present the September 1 *Watchtower* and the September 8 *Awake!* In one of the presentations, demonstrate witnessing to a schoolteacher.

**10 min:** "New Arrangement for Reviewing Assembly Programs." Talk and audience discussion based on the article on page 4. Mention the dates of the next circuit assembly and special assembly day programs if these are available. Those who wish to be baptized should make this known to the presiding overseer well in advance.

**20 min:** Offering the *Creator* Book During September. Talk and demonstration. Mention some comments that have been made about the publication. (*w*99 6/15 pp. 25-6) Give an overview of the contents of the book, and highlight some specific points that might appeal to those in the local territory. (*km* 2/99 p. 1; *km* 4/99 p. 2; *km* 9/99 p. 2) Outline a simple presentation that consists of an introduction from the *Reasoning* book or *Our Kingdom Ministry,* a scripture, and a point or chapter from the *Creator* book. Have a capable publisher demonstrate the presentation.

Song 220 and concluding prayer.

## Week Starting August 30

Song 90

**10 min:** Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for August.

**15 min:** "Ministerial Training School—A Large Door That Leads to Activity." Talk and audience discussion. Include comments on the *2004 Yearbook,* pages 239-40. Mention the meeting for those interested in attending Ministerial Training School that is held in connection with the circuit assembly. Encourage those who qualify to attend this meeting.

**20 min:** Have You Benefited? Audience discussion. Review the following suggestions that appeared in *Our Kingdom Ministry* during the past service year: Write your introduction on an index card. (*km* 10/03 p. 8) Offer commendation that is personal, specific, and sincere. (*km* 11/03 p. 1) Witness when people are more likely to be at home. (*km* 12/03 p. 1) Set definite times for Bible reading, meeting preparation, and the field ministry. (*km* 1/04 p. 4) Use the *"Good Land"* brochure when doing personal study and Bible reading. (*km* 3/04 p. 2) Set a goal to read the entire Bible. (*km* 4/04 p. 1) Witness in business territory. (*km* 7/04 p. 4) Use tracts to start Bible studies. (*km* 8/04 p. 2) Invite audience to comment on benefits they received from applying these suggestions.

Song 145 and concluding prayer.

## Week Starting September 6

Song 197

**5 min:** Local announcements.

**15 min:** Local needs.

**25 min:** "Demonstrate the Pioneer Spirit."* Briefly interview one or two pioneers. Have them comment on how the example of parents, elders, or others encouraged them to pursue the full-time ministry.

Song 142 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

### MAY SERVICE REPORT

| Number of: | | Av. Hrs. | Av. Mags. | Av. R.V. | Av. Bi.St. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sp'l Pios. | **260** | **97.2** | **100.9** | **42.3** | **4.6** |
| Pios. | **90,751** | **66.6** | **45.0** | **21.4** | **2.0** |
| Aux. Pios. | **61,673** | **48.6** | **37.1** | **12.0** | **0.9** |
| Pubs. | **839,095** | **9.8** | **8.6** | **3.6** | **0.3** |
| TOTAL | **991,779** | | | Baptized: | **2,580** |

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# Ministerial Training School —A Large Door That Leads to Activity

¹ Through the prophet Jeremiah, Jehovah foretold: "I will raise up over [my people] shepherds who will actually shepherd them; and they will be afraid no more, neither will they be struck with any terror, and none will be missing." (Jer. 23:4) Such a shepherding work is being accomplished today among people of all the nations. This is being done by tens of thousands of congregation elders. In addition, a company of young men as numerous as dewdrops have offered themselves willingly in Jehovah's service. (Ps. 110:3) What a blessing these humble brothers are to the congregations of God's people! As the spiritual ingathering work continues, there is yet a need for qualified men to make themselves available to serve their brothers.

² A fine provision to train single elders and ministerial servants for increased responsibilities is the Ministerial Training School. More than 22,000 students from some 140 countries have received this training in the 999 classes that have been held since the school's inception in 1987. For these brothers, the school has proved to be "a large door that leads to activity."—1 Cor. 16:9.

## How They Benefited From the Training

*"The training has truly enhanced my ministry and my ability to shepherd with wisdom, using the Scriptures."*

*"The school has given me a lot more confidence in handling my various responsibilities in the congregation."*

*"It has changed almost every aspect of my life, including the way that I feel about theocracy and God's organization."*

*"The training I received helped me appreciate the need to make myself available to serve where there is a need."*

³ **Purpose of the School:** The aim of the Ministerial Training School is to train and equip qualified men for responsibilities wherever there may be a need in the organization. The school heightens their abilities for taking the lead in the evangelizing work, sharing in shepherding the flock, and teaching in the congregation. After graduating, some students are assigned as special pioneers or traveling overseers in their home countries or abroad. Others receive assignments to serve with their home congregations or in areas where there is a greater need within the branch territory.

⁴ During the eight-week course, students undertake an intensive study of the Bible. They carefully consider a wide array of Bible teachings as well as shepherding responsibilities and guidelines for handling problems in Christian living. They also learn what the Scriptures teach about administrative, judicial, and organizational matters. They receive specialized training in public speaking and are given personal assistance to accelerate their spiritual development.

⁵ **Requirements:** Understandably, the requirements to attend the school are high. Applicants must have served as elders or ministerial servants for at least two consecutive years. All must be single and between the ages of 23 and 50. Applicants must be able to read, write, and speak fluently the language in which the school is conducted, and they must be in good health, not requiring special care or diet. Preference is given to those in regular pioneer service.

⁶ Those who volunteer must be willing and able to serve wherever they are needed. This calls for a spirit like that of the

prophet Isaiah, who eagerly offered himself to do a special work, saying: "Here I am! Send me." (Isa. 6:8) He also demonstrated humility throughout his life. Those making themselves available for the Ministerial Training School should be motivated by love for their brothers and a desire to serve them rather than a desire for prominence or special status. After receiving such fine training, graduates are expected to apply what they learned to the benefit of others. —Luke 12:48.

7 **Benefits:** During the eight weeks of intense training, graduates are "nourished with the words of the faith and of the fine teaching." (1 Tim. 4:6) This equips them to assist and encourage others in their assigned congregations and circuits. In many locations where graduates of the Ministerial Training School have been assigned, field activity has increased; pioneer service has been encouraged, especially among younger ones; and more personal attention has been given to the many new ones associating with God's people.

8 Are you a single elder or ministerial servant between the ages of 23 and 50? Why not consider applying for the Ministerial Training School? Are you a young brother contemplating your long-range goals in Jehovah's service? Why not keep your life simple and free of distractions so that you can enter this "large door that leads to activity"? It can bring you much joy and satisfaction. Indeed, the Ministerial Training School has proved to be a blessing not just to the graduates of the school but to the congregations of God's people worldwide.

## New Arrangement for Reviewing Assembly Programs

As Satan's world continues to advance from bad to worse, Jehovah fortifies us "to repudiate ungodliness and worldly desires and to live with soundness of mind and righteousness and godly devotion amid the present system of things." (Titus 2:12) Among the provisions that he makes through "the faithful and discreet slave" are the annual circuit assembly and special assembly day programs. (Matt. 24:45) How strengthening we find these spiritual gatherings to be!

To help us to retain and put into practice the instruction that is provided, a new arrangement for reviewing these assembly programs will be used during the 2005 service year. Pages 5-6 of this insert contain articles that provide a preview of what will be presented as well as review questions for each assembly program. Congregations will consider this information at the Service Meeting shortly before and shortly after they attend their assemblies. How will this be arranged?

*One or two weeks before* the congregation attends the circuit assembly, a ten-minute talk based on the article "New Circuit Assembly Program" will be presented on the Service Meeting to build anticipation for the program. The speaker will also draw attention to the review questions and encourage all to take notes in preparation for the review that will follow a few weeks after the assembly.

*Within a few weeks after* the assembly, a 15-minute review of the first day of the assembly program will be included on the Service Meeting. The following week, 15 minutes will be devoted to reviewing the second day of the program. The review questions provided in this insert will serve as the basis for those discussions. The review should focus on the practical value of the information. The elders may arrange to abbreviate, eliminate, or reschedule other Service Meeting parts to accommodate these review sessions.

The same arrangement will be followed in connection with the special assembly day program, except that there will be one 15-minute part to review the entire program. All of us will want to save this insert and use it to benefit fully from the fine instruction that Jehovah provides.—Isa. 48:17, 18.

# CIRCUIT ASSEMBLY REVIEW

This material will be used to preview and review the circuit assembly program for the 2005 service year. The article "New Arrangement for Reviewing Assembly Programs," which appears on page 4 of this insert, explains how this is to be handled. During the review, apportion the time so that all the questions are asked. The review should focus on how we can apply the information that was presented.

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## FIRST DAY MORNING [OR AFTERNOON] SESSION

1. What will help us to acquire godly wisdom?
2. What effort have those in the circuit put forth to reach more people with the good news?

## FIRST DAY AFTERNOON [OR EVENING] SESSION

3. Why is it vital for Christians to remain undefiled inwardly? What does this require that we do?
4. How can we show ourselves to be peaceable with our brothers?
5. What is reasonableness, and how can we demonstrate it in the way we use our time?
6. What do we learn from the examples of Saul and Noah? In what ways can we show that we are "ready to obey"? (Jas. 3:17)
7. How can Christians guard against leading a double life?
8. How can we imitate Paul's example in speaking God's wisdom?

## SECOND DAY MORNING SESSION

9. Why must we be careful in selecting the activities we pursue, and what will help us to do so?
10. What effort are those in the circuit putting forth to attend meetings regularly, and how have they benefited from doing so?
11. How can family heads build up their households?
12. What needs of the circuit were brought to our attention?

## SECOND DAY AFTERNOON SESSION

13. As brought out in the public talk, what righteous works have been produced by the wisdom from above?
14. Why is it foolish to trust in ourselves or in those who are not guided by divine wisdom? In what areas do we need to be on guard?
15. From what pitfalls does divine wisdom protect us?
16. Why is it vital for us to apply the counsel that was provided on the circuit assembly program?

## New Circuit Assembly Program

In these "critical times hard to deal with," we need godly wisdom to gain and retain Jehovah's approval. (2 Tim. 3:1) The circuit assembly program for the 2005 service year will provide us with practical counsel and encouragement as it develops the theme "Be Guided by 'the Wisdom From Above.'"—Jas. 3:17.

The first symposium, "Manifesting 'the Wisdom From Above' in Our Life," will help us to see what is involved in being chaste, peaceable, reasonable, and ready to obey. Then the circuit overseer will give attention to three other aspects of heavenly wisdom. The district overseer will conclude the first day by showing how Christian ministers, although viewed by some as "unlettered and ordinary," are equipped to speak God's wisdom.—Acts 4:13.

On the second day, a symposium entitled "Pursue the Things That Are Upbuilding" will help us to identify and avoid things that can tear us down spiritually. It will also show us how we can build up others at congregation meetings, in the field ministry, and in the family circle. The public talk, "How Godly Wisdom Benefits Us," will deepen our appreciation for the benefits we receive as we apply divine principles in our lives. The concluding talk, "Acting Upon Divine Wisdom Safeguards Us," will strengthen our resolve to turn to Jehovah for wisdom during these last days.

A highlight of every assembly is the baptism of new disciples. The Theocratic Ministry School and the *Watchtower* Study for the week will also be featured on the program. Jehovah desires all of us to benefit from the wisdom he provides. We will be spiritually enriched by the counsel and encouragement that await us at our circuit assembly.—Prov. 3:13-18.

## SPECIAL ASSEMBLY DAY REVIEW

This material will be used to preview and review the special assembly day program for the 2005 service year. The article "New Arrangement for Reviewing Assembly Programs," which appears on page 4 of this insert, explains how this is to be handled. During the review, apportion the time so that all the questions are asked. The review should focus on how we can apply the information that was presented.

### MORNING SESSION

1. Why is there an ever-growing need to listen to Jehovah? What does it mean to listen? ("Why Listen to Jehovah's Voice")
2. How can families maintain a good program of spiritual activity? ("Families That Listen Without Distraction to God's Word")
3. How have those in the circuit taken advantage of opportunities to witness informally? ("Doing All Things for God's Glory")
4. What lessons can we learn from the warning example found in Hebrews chapters 3 and 4? How is Jehovah speaking to us today? ("Listening When God Speaks Safeguards Us")
5. How did you benefit from the baptism talk? ("Dedication and Baptism")

### AFTERNOON SESSION

6. What can we discern about Jesus as a youth, and how are youths in the circuit imitating his example? ("How Attentive Listening to God's Word Fortifies Our Youths")
7. What are some ways in which parents can begin training babies and young children in Jehovah's ways? ("Little Ones Who Listen to God and Learn")
8. What are some specific areas in which we need to pay attention to Jehovah, his Son, and "the faithful and discreet slave"? (Matt. 24:45) Why is it vital that we do so? ("Pay Constant Attention to Divine Instruction")

## New Special Assembly Day Program

If we see or hear a warning signal but do not act on it, the results could be disastrous. It is even more important to act on the spiritual direction that Jehovah provides. This will be emphasized in the special assembly day program for the coming service year. The theme is "Pay Attention to How You Listen."—Luke 8:18.

In his first talk, the visiting speaker will consider how the counsel in the opening chapters of Paul's inspired letter to the Hebrews applies to us today. In the concluding talk, "Pay Constant Attention to Divine Instruction," he will help all to examine whether they are truly listening to Jehovah, his Son, and "the faithful and discreet slave."—Matt. 24:45.

Several parts on the program will be especially beneficial for families. "Families That Listen Without Distraction to God's Word" will help us to keep the things of the world from choking our spirituality. It will include interviews of those who have made changes in order to put spiritual things in first place. "How Attentive Listening to God's Word Fortifies Our Youths" will include interviews of youths who have taken a stand for the truth at school, with their peers, or in the ministry. "Little Ones Who Listen to God and Learn" will help us not to underestimate the learning ability of young ones. Interviews with young ones and their parents will help us to see the good that comes from training children from infancy in Jehovah's ways.

While Satan "is misleading the entire inhabited earth," Jehovah is showing his faithful servants the way in which they should walk. (Rev. 12:9; Isa. 30:21) Listening attentively to his counsel and obediently *applying* it in our lives make us wise, bring us happiness, and lead to everlasting life.—Prov. 8:32-35.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **August:** Offer the *Knowledge* book or the *Require* brochure. When householders already have these publications, use another appropriate brochure that the congregation has in stock. **September:** *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?* As an alternative offer, you may feature *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, offer the *Require* brochure, making a special effort to start Bible studies.

■ Since October will have five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on September 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. When this has been done, make an announcement to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.

■ Congregations should begin requesting the *2005 Calendar of Jehovah's Witnesses, Examining the Scriptures Daily—2005,* and the *2005 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses* with their next literature request. A listing of the languages in which these items are available will appear in the "Announcement to All Congregations," which is mailed to all congregations each month.

■ The annual inventory of all literature and magazines on hand should be taken on or as close as possible to August 31, 2004. This inventory is similar to the actual count taken monthly by the literature coordinator, and the totals should be entered on the *Literature Inventory* (S-18) form. The total number of magazines on hand should be obtained from the magazine servant(s). The secretary of the coordinating congregation should supervise the inventory. He and the presiding overseer of the coordinating congregation will sign the form. Each coordinating congregation will receive three *Literature Inventory* (S-18) forms. *Please mail the original to the branch office at 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483, no later than September 6.* Keep a copy for your files. The third copy may be used as a work sheet.

## THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning August 30, 2004. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of July 5 through August 30, 2004. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

### SPEECH QUALITIES

1. How can we explain the reason for our hope "with a mild temper and deep respect"? (1 Pet. 3:15) [*be* p. 192 pars. 2-4]
2. Why is it important to speak with conviction? (Rom. 8:38, 39; 1 Thess. 1:5; 1 Pet. 5:12) [*be* p. 194]
3. How is conviction manifested? [*be* p. 195 par. 3–p. 196 par. 4]
4. What is tact, why is it important, and how can we balance this quality with firmness? (Rom. 12:18) [*be* p. 197]
5. Before speaking, what will a tactful person consider? (Prov. 25:11; John 16:12) [*be* p. 199]

### ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. How might our conversations and Bible study habits indicate the extent to which we have made progress in the truth? [*be* p. 74 par. 3–p. 75 par. 2]
7. What is meant by "buying out the opportune time for yourselves," and how can we do that? (Eph. 5:16) [*w*02 11/15 p. 23]
8. How do the Scriptures make it plain that all humans are equal before God, and how should this affect our ministry? [*w*02 1/1 pp. 5, 7]
9. What is the significance of the Creator's unique name, Jehovah? [*w*02 1/15 p. 5]
10. What made Abel's sacrifice "of greater worth" than Cain's, and what lesson can we draw from this regarding our "sacrifice of praise"? (Heb. 11:4; 13:15) [*w*02 1/15 p. 21 pars. 6-8]

### WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. How can Leviticus 18:3 help us to avoid acquiring a twisted sense of right and wrong? (Eph. 4:17-19) [*w*02 2/1 p. 29]
12. What was prophetically depicted by the "two loaves" that were presented by the high priest as "a wave offering" during the Festival of Weeks (Pentecost)? (Lev. 23:15-17) [*w*98 3/1 p. 13 par. 21]
13. In a case of adultery such as that noted in Numbers chapter 5, in what sense would a guilty woman's 'thigh fall away'? (Num. 5:27) [*w*84 4/15 p. 29]
14. Why did Miriam and Aaron speak against Moses because of his Cushite wife? (Num. 12:1)
15. What was "the book of the Wars of Jehovah"? (Num. 21:14)

# Demonstrate the Pioneer Spirit

1 Whether they can serve as *pioneers* at present or not, all Kingdom publishers can manifest the pioneer spirit. They are intensely concerned with the command to preach and make disciples. (Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 18:5) They care about people and make sacrifices in order to accomplish their ministry. (Matt. 9:36; Acts 20:24) Jehovah's servants are willing to do whatever is needed to help others learn the truth. (1 Cor. 9:19-23) Let us consider the example of one who showed such a spirit, Philip the evangelizer.

2 **Preaching and Teaching:** Philip cared for weighty responsibilities in the first-century congregation. (Acts 6:1-6) Yet, he was foremost a zealous preacher of the good news. (Acts 8:40) So today, while caring for their assigned duties, elders and ministerial servants can demonstrate the pioneer spirit by taking an enthusiastic lead in the *ministry.* How this invigorates the spirit of the congregation! —Rom. 12:11.

3 Following Stephen's death, a wave of persecution caused great disruption in the lives of the disciples. Philip, however, continued to preach, and he was instrumental in opening up the work among the Samaritans. (Acts 8:1, 4-6, 12, 14-17) We can imitate his example by continuing to make known the good news when we undergo trials and by preaching impartially to all whom we meet. —John 4:9.

4 Philip's skill as a teacher of God's Word can be seen in the account of the conversion of the Ethiopian eunuch. (Acts 8:26-38) Developing the ability to use the Bible and to 'reason from the Scriptures' is yet another way that we manifest the pioneer spirit. (Acts 17:2, 3) Like Philip, we seek to share the good news wherever people can be found and on every appropriate occasion.

5 **Family and Congregation:** Philip's attitude and example no doubt had a positive effect on his daughters. (Acts 21:9) Similarly, Christian parents who center their lives on Kingdom interests encourage their children to do the same. Although tired from a busy week, a parent who eagerly preaches to others can leave a lasting impression on the heart of a child. —Prov. 22:6.

6 Philip extended hospitality to Paul and Luke, zealous Christians who were expending themselves in Jehovah's service. (Acts 21:8, 10) How can we show our appreciation and support for zealous ones today? Perhaps we could offer to work with the pioneers for a morning or an afternoon on a day when few share in the ministry. (Phil. 2:4) We can also invite them to our homes for upbuilding association. Whatever our circumstances, may all of us strive to demonstrate the pioneer spirit.

1. How would you describe the pioneer spirit?
2. How can elders and ministerial servants imitate Philip's zeal for the ministry?
3. How can we display the pioneer spirit when we face trials?
4. What example did Philip set as a teacher?
5. What can help Christian parents to instill the pioneer spirit in their children?
6. How can we show appreciation for the pioneers in our congregation?

## What to Say About the Magazines

**THE WATCHTOWER** ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **Aug. 15**

"Today, people seek advice from many sources on marriage and raising children. Where do you think the best counsel can be found? [Allow for response.] This issue of *The Watchtower* discusses some of the wise counsel on family life provided by mankind's Creator." Read Psalm 32:8.

**Awake! Aug. 22**

"How important do you think it is for fathers to be involved in the lives of their children? [Allow for response.] This issue of *Awake!* discusses the growing problem of absent fathers. It also explains how fathers can have a positive impact on their children." Read Proverbs 13:1.

**THE WATCHTOWER** ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **Sept. 1**

"All of us want to be happy. Do you think that the things mentioned here can really bring happiness? [Read Matthew 5:4a, 6a, 10a. Then allow for response.] This magazine explains the meaning of those words from the famous Sermon on the Mount and discusses what else it takes to be happy."

**Awake! Sept. 8**

"It is estimated that 1 in 4 people will suffer from mental illness at some point in their life. Many of us know someone who is afflicted. [Open to article.] This article offers helpful suggestions on what we can do if someone we love has such a condition."

# OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

September 2004 For United States of America *km*-E Us 9/04 Vol. 47, No. 9

*Dear Kingdom Publishers:*

We rejoice to announce that, with Jehovah's blessing, the new presses and bindery at Wallkill are now in operation. We warmly invite all of you to tour these streamlined facilities. How grateful we are to the brothers and sisters from seven nearby Regional Building Committees who have thus far contributed over 67,000 man-hours to this project! One such volunteer remarked: "It was more than a privilege. It was a dream come true for me."

In Brooklyn, brothers are now working diligently to renovate the 117 Adams Street complex in preparation for the laundry and other essential support departments that are relocating there after the recent sale of the 360 Furman Street building. Hundreds of skilled workers from Regional Building Committees across the country are 'offering themselves willingly' in response to a special invitation to assist in this effort. (Ps. 110:3) The first of these volunteers arrived in August. Your heartfelt support of the expansion of pure worship endears you to us and to our appreciative God, Jehovah.—2 Cor. 9:7.

We are pleased to report that a new peak of 2,303,015 attended the observance of the Lord's Evening Meal. Along with you, we look forward to "having plenty to do in the work of the Lord" as we begin the 2005 service year.—1 Cor. 15:58.

Your brothers,

*U. S. Branch Office*

## Keep Your Eye Simple

1 In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus called attention to the tremendous influence that the figurative or spiritual eye can exercise on our entire life course. He said: "If, then, your eye is simple, your whole body will be bright; but if your eye is wicked, your whole body will be dark." (Matt. 6:22, 23) A simple eye is one that is focused on a single purpose—doing God's will—not being distracted by undue anxiety over material things. (Matt. 6:19-21, 24-33) What can help us to maintain a simple eye?

2 **Cultivating Contentment:** Providing adequately for the needs of one's household is a Scriptural obligation. (1 Tim. 5:8) But this does not require that we engage in an endless quest for the best and latest things. (Prov. 27:20; 30:8, 9) Rather, the Scriptures urge us to be content with "sustenance and covering," the necessities of life. (1 Tim. 6:8; Heb. 13:5, 6) Heeding this counsel can help us to keep our eye in proper focus.

3 We are wise to avoid burdening ourselves with unnecessary debt and with possessions or pursuits that require much time and attention. (1 Tim. 6:9, 10) How can we do this? When contemplating a course of action, prayerfully weigh the matter and honestly evaluate whether it will infringe on spiritual pursuits. Be determined to keep spiritual things first in your life.—Phil. 1:10; 4:6, 7.

4 **Simplify Your Life-Style:** Another aid to resisting the pull of materialism is to seek to simplify your life-style. One brother who found that his family could manage well without excess material goods said: "I can now do so much more in the congregation to serve my brothers. I am convinced that Jehovah blesses all of his servants when they put true worship ahead of personal interests." Could you enjoy greater blessings by simplifying your life-style?

5 Constant effort is needed to resist the influence of Satan, his materialistic world, and our own imperfect flesh. Rather than allowing our eyes to wander, let us keep them fixed on doing God's will and on our precious hope of everlasting life.—Prov. 4:25; 2 Cor. 4:18.

1. What does it mean to have a simple eye, and why is this important?
2. What view of material things does God's Word encourage?
3. What can help us to avoid self-imposed burdens?
4. Why should we look for ways to simplify our life-style?
5. Why is constant effort required to keep our eye simple?

## SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

### Week Starting September 13

Song 43

**12 min:** Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* If the suggestions on page 4 are practical for your congregation territory, use them to demonstrate how to present the September 15 *Watchtower* and the September 22 *Awake!* Other presentations may be used. After each demonstration, briefly highlight a positive aspect of the presentation.

**15 min:** “Keep Your Eye Simple.”* Use the questions that are provided. As time permits, highlight the cited scriptures.

**18 min:** Eyewitnesses of Our Fine Works. (1 Pet. 2:12) Talk and audience discussion based on the November 1, 2002, *Watchtower,* pages 12-14, paragraphs 14-20. Invite audience to comment on how people locally have been affected by observing our fine works.

Song 162 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting September 20

Song 88

**10 min:** Local announcements. Review highlights of the branch letter, which appears on the front page of this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Include comments on the September 2003 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 4. Encourage all to read Numbers 16:1-35 and then watch the video *Respect Jehovah's Authority* in preparation for the Service Meeting the week of October 4.

**15 min:** How Did We Do Last Year? Talk by an elder based on the congregation service report for the 2004 service year. Focus on positive aspects of the report, and commend the congregation for the good things accomplished. Highlight the hard work of the pioneers. Mention one or two areas that the congregation could give attention to in the coming year.

**20 min:** Enduring in Good Works. (Gal. 6:10) Interview two or three who are either regular pioneers or who auxiliary pioneer from time to time. What obstacles have they faced in their service to Jehovah, and how did they overcome them? What has helped them to endure in doing good toward others? How have their efforts in the Christian ministry benefited themselves and others? If applicable, include comments on what has been done locally to reach those who speak other languages with the good news. Commend all for ‘their faithful work and their loving labor and their endurance.’ —1 Thess. 1:2, 3.

Song 103 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting September 27

Song 221

**15 min:** Local announcements. Accounts report. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for September. Demonstrate how the October 1 *Watchtower* and the October 8 *Awake!* can be offered.

**10 min:** Jehovah's Word Is Alive. A talk. To help us benefit more fully from the program of weekly Bible reading outlined for the Theocratic Ministry School, a series of articles entitled “Jehovah's Word Is Alive” have begun to appear in selected issues of *The Watchtower.* Using the September 15, 2004, *Watchtower,* pages 24-7, point out the features of these articles. After a general overview, the section “Scriptural Questions Answered” provides an explanation of some of the difficult Scriptural passages. The comments under “Lessons for Us” draw attention to the practical value of the information in the reading. Consider a few specific examples to illustrate how this series will help us gain a greater understanding of God's Word. Encourage all to make full use of this provision as we begin reading the book of Deuteronomy next week.

**20 min:** “Make Good Use of the Bible.”* Use the questions that are provided. Base introductory comments on the *Ministry School* book, page 145, paragraphs 2-3. Include two brief demonstrations, one an initial call and one a return visit, showing how to apply the suggestions given.

Song 38 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting October 4

Song 5

**5 min:** Local announcements.

**15 min:** Local needs.

**25 min:** “We Must Respect Jehovah's Authority.” Read Jude 11, limiting introductory comments to no more than two minutes. Then get right into an audience discussion using all of the questions in the article. Highlight the point that to retain Jehovah's approval, we must avoid Korah's rebellious attitude and imitate the example of his sons, who let nothing take precedence over their loyalty to Jehovah.

Song 99 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

### JUNE SERVICE REPORT

| Number of: | | Av. Hrs. | Av. Mags. | Av. R.V. | Av. Bi.St. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sp'l Pios. | **206** | **99.1** | **93.8** | **46.3** | **4.8** |
| Pios. | **88,419** | **63.9** | **41.9** | **20.7** | **2.0** |
| Aux. Pios. | **26,024** | **49.5** | **35.1** | **12.5** | **1.1** |
| Pubs. | **856,461** | **9.5** | **8.3** | **3.6** | **0.4** |
| TOTAL | **971,110** | | | Baptized: | **3,253** |

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **September:** *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?* As an alternative offer, you may feature *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, offer the *Require* brochure, making a special effort to start Bible studies. **November:** *Learn From the Great Teacher*. If individuals say they have no children, offer the *Require* brochure. When using the brochure, concentrate on starting home Bible studies. **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived*. As an alternative offer, you may use *My Book of Bible Stories, The Bible—God's Word or Man's?*, or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth*.
- The video program *No Blood—Medicine Meets the Challenge* will be considered at a Service Meeting in December. It is now available on DVD as part of *Transfusion Alternatives—Documentary Series*. This DVD contains the following programs: *Transfusion-Alternative Strategies—Simple, Safe, Effective; Transfusion-Alternative Health Care—Meeting Patient Needs and Rights;* and *No Blood—Medicine Meets the Challenge*. The DVD presents the English videos with additional sound tracks in French, German, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese (Brazilian), Russian, and Spanish. The *No Blood* videocassette is available in Bulgarian, Chinese (Cantonese), Dutch, English, French, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Russian, and Spanish. If needed, copies of the DVD and videocassette should be requested through the congregation as soon as possible.
- The special public talk for the 2005 Memorial season will be given on Sunday, April 10. The subject of the talk will be announced later. Those congregations having the visit of the circuit overseer or an assembly that weekend will have the special talk the following week. No congregation should have the special talk before Sunday, April 10, 2005.
- The *Annual Congregation Property Documents Review Work Sheet* (T-33-E) is to be completed each September by the secretary of the congregation holding title to Kingdom Hall property. Each congregation sharing use of the property should promptly receive a copy of the completed work sheet. If corrective actions are needed, the elders should care for these to protect the interests of the congregation. When the circuit overseer visits the congregation, he will review the congregation property documents and the *Safety Inspection Work Sheet* (T-34-E).
- The elders are reminded to follow through on instructions given on pages 21-3 of the April 15, 1991, *Watchtower* regarding any disfellowshipped or disassociated ones who should be visited.
- Congregations should release the latest issues of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* as soon as they are received. This will allow publishers to become familiar with the contents before offering the magazines in field service.
- Since October will have five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

## We Must Respect Jehovah's Authority

With what do you associate the ancient names Korah, Dathan, and Abiram? Rebellion! Against what? Godly authority. The details of their tragic course are recorded in Numbers chapter 16, and an overview of the matter is provided in the article "Loyally Submit to Godly Authority" in the August 1, 2002, *Watchtower*. You would find it beneficial to read this material and then view the sobering portrayal of it in the video *Respect Jehovah's Authority*. You will see the conflict that developed between the faithful sons of Korah and their rebellious father, who was on a collision course with the Sovereign of the universe. (Num. 26:9-11) This true-life drama should inspire all of us to develop our loyalty to Jehovah even more fully.

As you watch the video, look for the evidence that Korah and his fellow rebels failed the test of loyalty in six crucial areas: **(1)** How did they disrespect godly authority? **(2)** How did they let pride, ambition, and jealousy affect them? **(3)** How did they focus on the deficiencies of those appointed by Jehovah? **(4)** What complaining attitude had they developed? **(5)** Why had they become dissatisfied with their privileges of service? **(6)** How did they let friends and family take precedence over loyalty to God?

Consider how the lessons learned in this Bible drama apply to our personal view of godly authority today: **(1)** How should we respond to the decisions of elders in the congregation, and why? **(2)** How can we counteract any improper motives within us? **(3)** How should we react to the imperfections of those appointed to take the lead? **(4)** What should we do if a complaining spirit begins to develop in our heart? **(5)** How should we feel about any privileges we have been given? **(6)** Who should never take priority over our loyalty to God, and when might this become a difficult test for us?

After this information is discussed in the congregation, why not watch the video again? Let it doubly impress upon your mind the reasons why we must always respect Jehovah's authority!—Ps. 18:25; 37:28.

# Make Good Use of the Bible

1 Regardless of what literature we plan to offer in the ministry, it is beneficial to select a thought-provoking scripture to share with those who will listen. (Heb. 4:12) Selecting a scripture that is used in the publication you are offering would contribute to an effective transition to the publication. In some areas, publishers have found it beneficial to carry the Bible in their hand when approaching a person or when working from house to house.

2 **Open With a Scripture:** Some publishers open their presentation by asking the householder a simple viewpoint question on a Bible text that they then proceed to read. This quickly directs attention to God's Word. Would some of these introductions be effective in your territory?

- "If you had the power to do so, would you bring about these changes?" Read Revelation 21:4.
- "Why are we living in such critical times?" Read 2 Timothy 3:1-5.
- "Do you think our community would be a better place if everyone followed this advice?" Read Matthew 7:12.
- "Do you think your children will be able to enjoy the conditions described here?" Read Psalm 37:10, 11.
- "Do you think the day will ever come when these words come true?" Read Isaiah 33:24.
- "Are you familiar with the change of government mentioned here?" Read Daniel 2:44.
- "Have you ever wanted to ask God this question?" Read Job 21:7.
- "Is it possible to see our dead loved ones again?" Read John 5:28, 29.
- "Do the dead know what the living are doing?" Read Ecclesiastes 9:5.

3 **Explain, Illustrate, Apply:** When a person is willing to converse, do not rush through the discussion. Take time to explain, illustrate, and apply the scripture that you read so that the person understands it. (Neh. 8:8) When people understand and accept what God's Word teaches, it can bring about marvelous changes in their lives. —1 Thess. 2:13.

4 Continue to make good use of the Bible as you cultivate the interest. You can use this same method when making return visits: (1) Select an appropriate scripture. (2) Raise a simple viewpoint question regarding the text. Then read it. (3) Explain, illustrate, and apply it. Strive to add to the person's knowledge of God's Word each time you visit. You may soon be conducting a Bible study!

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1. What might you do in preparation for the field ministry?

2. (a) How can we open our presentation with a scripture? (b) What Scriptural subjects interest people in the territory?

3. How can we help people to understand the Bible texts we read?

4. How can we make good use of the Bible on return visits?

## What to Say About the Magazines

### The Watchtower Sept. 15

"Millions of people include these well-known words in their own prayers. [Read Matthew 6:10.] What do you think life would be like if God's will was fully accomplished on earth? [Allow for response.] This magazine examines the meaning of each part of the Lord's Prayer, including the part we just read."

### Awake! Sept. 22

"Many people are concerned about a growing problem among young people—binge drinking. Have you heard of it? [Allow for response. Then read Proverbs 20:1.] Binge drinking exposes young people to many dangers. This article contains information that can help them resist the pressure to abuse alcohol."

### The Watchtower Oct. 1

"All of us long to see an end to crime, violence, and war. Do you think that we will ever see these words fulfilled? [Read Psalm 37:11. Then allow for response.] This magazine discusses how this promise is linked to God's original purpose for mankind and how we can share in it."

### Awake! Oct. 8

"Isn't it sad that each year millions of unmarried teenage girls become pregnant? [Allow for response.] This magazine discusses steps they can take to meet the many challenges of teen motherhood. It also considers how parents can help their children avoid this problem in the first place." Read 2 Timothy 3:15.

# OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

October 2004 For United States of America *km*-E Us 10/04 Vol. 47, No. 10

## District Convention Stimulates Us to Walk With God

How the "Walk With God" District Convention echoed Jehovah's clear direction: "This is the way. Walk in it, you people"! (Isa. 30:21) Applying the instruction we received will help us to 'keep strict watch on how we walk.' (Eph. 5:15) Meditating on what we learned will assist us as we "go on walking in the truth."—3 John 3.

Use the following questions along with your personal notes to prepare for and participate in the review of this year's convention program. The review will be conducted on the Service Meeting the week of October 18.

1. How was Enoch able to walk with God despite living in turbulent times? (Heb. 11:1, 5, 6; Jude 14, 15; "Walk With God in Turbulent Times")

2. In what areas of life might the principle at Luke 16:10 be applied? ("Are You 'Faithful in What Is Least'?")

3. (a) Name four practical lessons found in Hosea chapters 6 through 9 that will help us to walk with God. (Hos. 6:6, 7; 7:14; 8:7) (b) What additional points from Hosea chapters 10 through 14 help us to walk with God? ("Hosea's Prophecy Helps Us to Walk With God"—Symposium)

4. What practical things can Christian husbands and wives do to keep their marriage strong? (Prov. 12:4; Eph. 5:29; "Do Not Put Apart 'What God Has Yoked Together'")

5. How do we show respect for our sacred gatherings? (Eccl. 5:1; Isa. 66:23; "Showing Respect for Our Sacred Gatherings")

6. (a) What three important aspects of our preaching work should we analyze to ensure that we are having a meaningful share in it? (Isa. 52:7; Zech. 8:23; Mark 6:34) (b) What features of the publication *Good News for People of All Nations* do you find particularly useful? ("Good News for People of All Nations"; "Helping Those Who Speak Another Language")

7. How might we help new ones to gain confidence in presenting the Kingdom message? (Judg. 7:17; "Helping Multitudes Join Us in the Ministry")

8. How do we demonstrate our conviction that "the great day of Jehovah is near"? (Zeph. 1:14; "Walking by Faith, Not by Sight")

9. (a) How serious is the matter of stumbling? (Mark 9:42-48) (b) How can we avoid being stumbled? (Ps. 119:165) (c) How can we avoid stumbling others? (1 Cor. 10:24; "Avoid 'Any Cause for Stumbling'")

10. How can we maintain our balance when it comes to seeking a marriage mate, pursuing good health, and handling business affairs? (Ps. 26:4; Matt. 6:25; 1 Tim. 6:9; "Keep Your Senses Completely")

11. (a) What is noteworthy about times when Jesus enjoyed the hospitality of others? (Luke 10:42; 24:32) (b) How can we fill recreational needs in a way that leaves us and others feeling refreshed? (1 Cor. 10:31-33; "Wholesome Activities That Refresh")

12. According to the 23rd Psalm, what blessings do we receive as Jehovah's sheep, and what are our responsibilities? (1 Cor. 10:21; "Jehovah Is Our Shepherd")

13. How do Christians heed the inspired advice to 'buy out the opportune time'? (Eph. 5:16; "Buying Out the Opportune Time")

14. (a) What does 'the hour of judgment' mentioned at Revelation 14:7 include? (b) How do we give evidence that we are truly separate from Babylon the Great? ("'Keep on the Watch'—The Hour of Judgment Has Arrived") (c) What points have you enjoyed from the *Keep on the Watch!* brochure?

15. Name three qualities that are needed to keep us from "abandoning the straight path." (2 Pet. 2:15; "Guard Against 'Abandoning the Straight Path'")

16. How can youths shun "the path of the wicked ones"? (Prov. 4:14; "Youths—Walk in the Path of Righteousness")

17. (a) In what ways was Paul an excellent example of endurance? (Acts 14:19, 20; 16:25-33) (b) Why is there no need to fear opponents of true worship? (Drama and the talk "Bear Thorough Witness Today Despite Opposition")

18. What blessings come to those who walk with God? ("Walking With God Brings Blessings Now and Forever")

May we be determined to heed 'the word behind us' so as to walk with our heavenly Father forever.—Isa. 30:21; John 3:36.

## SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

### Week Starting October 11

Song 219

**10 min:** Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Encourage all to use the questions on page 1 to review their notes in preparation for the audience discussion of the "Walk With God" District Convention program at next week's Service Meeting. Use the suggestions on page 8 (if appropriate for your territory) to demonstrate how to present the October 15 *Watchtower* and the October 22 *Awake!* Encourage publishers to include a scripture in their presentation. Other realistic presentations may be used.

**15 min:** Find Delight in Helping Others. (John 4:34) Interviews. It is a joy to see someone's face light up at learning truths from God's Word. (*w*94 3/1 p. 29 pars. 6-7) Interview two or three publishers or pioneers who are effective in using the Bible in the ministry and in starting and conducting Bible studies. How do they cultivate the interest they find? What joy do they find in doing so? Have them relate or reenact experiences from their ministry.

**20 min:** "Special Campaign to Distribute New Brochure."* To be handled by the service overseer. Have the suggested presentations demonstrated. In one of the demonstrations, a householder shows minimal interest in the Scriptural presentation and is offered a tract instead of the brochure.

Song 69 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting October 18

Song 127

**5 min:** Local announcements. Briefly review arrangements for the special campaign to distribute new brochure.

**40 min:** "District Convention Stimulates Us to Walk With God." To be handled by an elder. Following an introduction of one minute or less, conduct an audience discussion of the convention program using the questions in the article. Apportion the time so as to give sufficient coverage to each question, perhaps entertaining only one answer on some questions. Not all cited scriptures can be read in the time allotted; these are included for ease in locating answers. Comments should focus on the benefits of applying the things learned.

Song 165 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting October 25

Song 56

**10 min:** Local announcements. Accounts report. Demonstrate a presentation for offering the new brochure that has been getting good results in the local territory. As time permits, relate experiences from the special campaign.

**15 min:** Local needs.

**20 min:** Supply Evidence to Support God's Word. Audience discussion based on the *Ministry School* book, pages 256-7. How can we use evidence from sources outside the Bible to help people appreciate the reasonableness of the Scriptures? Invite audience to comment on the following questions: What examples from the physical universe could we point to as evidence of a Creator? (*rs* pp. 85-6) How might we use the comments of scholars or experts to help others to see that the Bible really is the Word of God? (*rs* pp. 62-4) What illustration or analogy could we use to help others see why God permits wickedness? (*rs* p. 429) What experiences or examples have you used to help others appreciate the wisdom of following the Bible's counsel?

Song 62 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting November 1

Song 15

**10 min:** Local announcements. Remind all to turn in field service reports.

**20 min:** How to Help Those Who Speak Another Language. Talk and audience discussion based on the foreword of *Good News for People of All Nations.* Point out features of the new booklet. Discuss the three steps we can take to help those who speak a language that we do not understand. Include comments from the July 2003 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 4. Mention that the *Please Follow Up* (S-43) form should generally be filled out even if the individual does not show interest in the Kingdom message. Include a demonstration showing how to use the new booklet.

**15 min:** Local experiences. Invite audience to relate experiences enjoyed thus far during the special campaign to distribute the new brochure. Arrange in advance to reenact outstanding experiences. If the congregation's supply of brochures is running low, request that extra copies be returned to the literature counter.

Song 175 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

### JULY SERVICE REPORT

| Number of: | | Av. Hrs. | Av. Mags. | Av. R.V. | Av. Bi.St. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sp'l Pios. | 168 | 91.0 | 85.5 | 41.8 | 4.3 |
| Pios. | 89,380 | 61.3 | 39.8 | 19.6 | 1.9 |
| Aux. Pios. | 23,351 | 50.1 | 35.0 | 12.2 | 1.1 |
| Pubs. | 881,765 | 9.6 | 8.5 | 3.6 | 0.3 |
| TOTAL | 994,664 | | Baptized: 5,536 | | |

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# THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL SCHEDULE FOR 2005

## INSTRUCTIONS

During 2005 the following will be the arrangements for conducting the Theocratic Ministry School.

SOURCE MATERIAL: *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* [*bi12*], *The Watchtower* [*w*], *Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education* [*be*], *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial"* (1990 Edition) [*si*], and *Reasoning From the Scriptures* (1989 Edition) [*rs*].

The school should begin ON TIME with song, prayer, and remarks of welcome and then proceed as follows:

SPEECH QUALITY: 5 minutes. The school overseer, the auxiliary counselor, or another qualified elder will discuss a speech quality based on the *Ministry School* textbook. (In congregations with a limited number of elders, a qualified ministerial servant may be used.) Unless otherwise indicated, the boxes appearing on the assigned pages should be included in the discussion. The exercises should be omitted. These are primarily for personal use and private counsel.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1: 10 minutes. This should be handled by a qualified elder or ministerial servant, and it will be based on *The Watchtower, Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education,* or *"All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial."* It is to be delivered as a ten-minute instruction talk with no oral review. The objective should be not just to cover the material but to focus attention on the *practical value* of the information being discussed, highlighting what will be most helpful to the congregation. The theme shown should be used. It is expected that brothers assigned this talk will be careful to *keep within the time limit.* Private counsel may be given as needed.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BIBLE READING: 10 minutes. For the first six minutes, a qualified elder or ministerial servant should apply the material to local needs. He may comment on any portion of the assigned Bible reading for the week. This should not be just a summary of the assigned reading. The principal objective is to help the audience to appreciate *why* and *how* the information is of value. The speaker should be careful not to exceed the six minutes allotted for the opening portion. He should ensure that four minutes are set aside for audience participation. The audience should be invited to offer *brief* comments (30 seconds or less) on what they have appreciated in the Bible reading and its benefits. The school overseer will then dismiss the students who are assigned to other classrooms.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 2: 4 minutes. This is a reading to be given by a brother. The reading will usually be from the Bible. Once a month this assignment will cover material drawn from *The Watchtower.* The student should read the assigned material without giving an introduction or a conclusion. From week to week, the amount of material to be read will vary slightly but should take four minutes or less. The school overseer should look over the material before making the assignments, matching such to the age and ability of the students. The school overseer will be especially interested in helping students to read with understanding, fluency, proper sense stress, modulation, appropriate pausing, and naturalness.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 3: 5 minutes. This will be assigned to a sister. Students receiving this assignment will either be assigned a setting or may select one from the list appearing on page 82 of the *Ministry School* textbook. The student should use the assigned theme and apply it to an aspect of field service that is realistic and practical for the territory of the local congregation. When no references are indicated as source material, the student will need to gather material for this part by doing research in publications provided by the faithful and discreet slave class. Newer students should be given assignments for which references are supplied. The school overseer will be particularly interested in the way the student develops the material and the way she helps the householder to reason on the Scriptures and to understand the key points of the presentation. Students assigned this part should know how to read. The school overseer will assign one assistant.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 4: 5 minutes. The student should develop the assigned theme. When no references are indicated as source material, the student will need to gather material for this part by doing research in publications provided by the faithful and discreet slave class. When assigned to a brother, this part should be given as a talk with the Kingdom Hall audience in mind. When a sister is given this part, it should always be presented as outlined for Assignment No. 3. The school overseer may give a brother Assignment No. 4 whenever he sees fit to do so. Please note that themes with asterisks next to them should always be assigned to brothers to develop as talks.

TIMING: No talk should go overtime, nor should the remarks of the counselor. Assignments No. 2 through No. 4 should tactfully be stopped when the time is up. If brothers handling the opening talk on a speech quality, Assignment No. 1, or highlights from the Bible reading go overtime, they should be given private counsel. All should watch their timing carefully. Total program: 45 minutes, excluding song and prayer.

COUNSEL: 1 minute. The school overseer will take no more than *one minute* after each student presentation to offer some positive observations on an aspect of the talk that was commendable. His aim is not simply to say "well done" but, rather, to draw attention to specific reasons why that aspect of the presentation was effective. According to the need of each student, additional constructive counsel may be given privately after the meeting or at another time.

AUXILIARY COUNSELOR: The body of elders may select a capable elder, if one is available in addition to the school overseer, to handle the assignment as auxiliary counselor. If there are a number of elders in the congregation, then a different qualified elder may care for this assignment each year. The auxiliary counselor's responsibility will be to give private counsel, if needed, to brothers who present Assignment No. 1 and Bible highlights. It is not necessary that he offer counsel after each of such talks by fellow elders or ministerial servants. This arrangement will remain in effect during 2005 and may be adjusted thereafter.

COUNSEL FORM: In textbook.

ORAL REVIEW: 30 minutes. Every two months, the school overseer will conduct an oral review. It will be preceded by the consideration of a speech quality and highlights from the Bible reading as outlined above. The oral review will be based on material considered in the school over the preceding two months, including the current week. If your congregation has a circuit assembly or the visit of the circuit overseer the week of the oral review, then follow the scheduling instructions found in the December 2003 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 6.

# SCHEDULE

**Jan. 3 Bible reading: Joshua 16-20** **Song 6**

**Speech Quality:** Understandable to Others (*be* p. 226 ¶1–p. 227 ¶1)

**No. 1:** Fear the True God (*be* p. 272 ¶1–p. 273 ¶1)

**No. 2:** Joshua 16:1–17:4

**No. 3:** Why Just Reading the Bible Is Not Sufficient (*rs* p. 328 ¶2-3)

**No. 4:** Is Being Rich or Being Poor a Sign of True Godliness Today?

**Jan. 10 Bible reading: Joshua 21-24** **Song 100**

**Speech Quality:** Explaining Unfamiliar Terms (*be* p. 227 ¶2–p. 228 ¶1)

**No. 1:** Making Known God's Name (*be* p. 273 ¶2–p. 274 ¶1)

**No. 2:** Joshua 23:1-13

**No. 3:** The Right Religion Is Bible Based and Makes Known God's Name (*rs* p. 328 ¶4-5)

**No. 4:** Is It Proper to Worship Jesus?

**Jan. 17 Bible reading: Judges 1-4** **Song 97**

**Speech Quality:** Providing Needed Explanation (*be* p. 228 ¶2-3)

**No. 1:** The Person Identified by the Name (*be* p. 274 ¶2-5)

**No. 2:** Judges 2:1-10

**No. 3:** The Right Religion Demonstrates True Faith in Jesus Christ (*rs* p. 329 ¶1)

**No. 4:** How Can You Protect Yourself From Harmful Music Videos?

**Jan. 24 Bible reading: Judges 5-7** **Song 47**

**Speech Quality:** How the Heart Is Involved (*be* p. 228 ¶4–p. 229 ¶1)

**No. 1:** God's Name—"A Strong Tower" (*be* p. 274 ¶6–p. 275 subheading)

**No. 2:** Judges 6:25-35

**No. 3:** How Should the Bible Affect Our Freedom of Choice?

**No. 4:** The True Religion Is Not Formalistic but Is a Way of Life (*rs* p. 329 ¶2)

**Jan. 31 Bible reading: Judges 8-10** **Song 174**

**Speech Quality:** Informative to Your Audience (*be* p. 230 ¶1-6)

**No. 1:** Bearing Witness to Jesus (*be* p. 275 subheading–p. 276 ¶1)

**No. 2:** *w*03 1/15 pp. 19-20 ¶16-18

**No. 3:** Members of the True Religion Love One Another and Keep Separate From the World (*rs* p. 329 ¶3-4)

**No. 4:** Materialism Means More Than Acquiring Possessions

**Feb. 7 Bible reading: Judges 11-14** **Song 209**

**Speech Quality:** Making a Talk Informative Through Research (*be* p. 231 ¶1-3)

**No. 1:** Emphasizing Jesus' Role as Redeemer (*be* p. 276 ¶2-3)

**No. 2:** Judges 12:1-15

**No. 3:** Why Jehovah's Witnesses Are United

**No. 4:** Members of the True Religion Are Active Witnesses Concerning God's Kingdom (*rs* p. 330 ¶1)

**Feb. 14 Bible reading: Judges 15-18** **Song 105**

**Speech Quality:** Explaining Scriptures (*be* p. 231 ¶4-5)

**No. 1:** Emphasizing Jesus' Roles as High Priest and Head of the Congregation (*be* p. 277 ¶1-2)

**No. 2:** Judges 15:9-20

**No. 3:** #If Someone Says, 'As Long as You Believe in Jesus, It Really Does Not Matter What Church You Belong To' (*rs* p. 332 ¶2)

**No. 4:** Why Hypnotism Is Not for Christians

**Feb. 21 Bible reading: Judges 19-21** **Song 53**

**Speech Quality:** Explaining the Meaning of Terms (*be* p. 232 ¶1)

**No. 1:** Emphasizing Jesus' Role as Reigning King (*be* p. 277 ¶3-4)

**No. 2:** *w*03 2/1 pp. 17-18 ¶18-21

**No. 3:** #If Someone Says, 'What Makes You Think There Is Only One Religion That Is Right?' (*rs* p. 332 ¶3)

**No. 4:** What Are Some of the "Deep Things of God"? (1 Cor. 2:10)

**Feb. 28 Bible reading: Ruth 1-4** **Song 120**

**Speech Quality:** Reasoning on Texts (*be* p. 232 ¶2-4)

**Oral Review**

**Mar. 7 Bible reading: 1 Samuel 1-4** **Song 221**

**Speech Quality:** Choosing Information That Will Benefit Your Audience (*be* p. 233 ¶1-5)

**No. 1:** Laying Christ as the Foundation (*be* p. 278 ¶1-4)

**No. 2:** 1 Samuel 2:1-11

**No. 3:** Jesus Did Not Go to Heaven in a Physical Body (*rs* p. 334 ¶1-3)

**No. 4:** Why Genuine Christians Do Not Consult Horoscopes

**Mar. 14 Bible reading: 1 Samuel 5-9** **Song 151**

**Speech Quality:** Use of Assigned Material (*be* p. 234 ¶1–p. 235 ¶3)

**No. 1:** This Good News of the Kingdom (*be* p. 279 ¶1-4)

**No. 2:** 1 Samuel 5:1-12

**No. 3:** Why Jesus Appeared in Materialized Bodies (*rs* p. 334 ¶4–p. 335 ¶2)

**No. 4:** How We Can Strengthen Our Friendship With Jehovah

**Mar. 21 Bible reading: 1 Samuel 10-13** **Song 166**

**Speech Quality:** Effective Use of Questions (*be* p. 236 ¶1-5)

**No. 1:** Explaining What the Kingdom Is (*be* p. 280 ¶1-5)

**No. 2:** 1 Samuel 10:1-12

**No. 3:** How Should Christians Treat Loved Ones Who Do Not Share Their Faith?

**No. 4:** Those Resurrected to Rule With Christ Will Be Like Him (*rs* p. 335 ¶4–p. 336 ¶2)

**Mar. 28 Bible reading: 1 Samuel 14-15** **Song 172**

**Speech Quality:** Questions to Introduce Important Thoughts (*be* p. 237 ¶1-2)

**No. 1:** Explaining How the Kingdom Affects Us (*be* p. 281 ¶1-4)

**No. 2:** *w*03 3/15 pp. 19-20 ¶17-21

**No. 3:** Why Christians Pay Their Taxes

**No. 4:** What the Resurrection Will Mean for Mankind in General (*rs* p. 336 ¶3–p. 337 ¶3)

**Apr. 4 Bible reading: 1 Samuel 16-18** **Song 27**

**Speech Quality:** Questions to Reason on a Subject (*be* p. 237 ¶3–p. 238 ¶2)

**No. 1:** Why Education Is Important for Christians (*w*03 3/15 p. 10 ¶1–p. 11 ¶5)

**No. 2:** 1 Samuel 17:41-51

**No. 3:** Why Resurrected Ones Will Not Be Condemned for Their Past Deeds (*rs* p. 338 ¶1)

**No. 4:** Meditating on Consequences Can Help Us to Love What Is Good and Hate What Is Bad

**Apr. 11 Bible reading: 1 Samuel 19-22** **Song 73**

**Speech Quality:** Questions to Draw Out Inner Feelings (*be* p. 238 ¶3-5)

**No. 1:** How Youths Can Make Spiritual Advancement (*w*03 4/1 pp. 8-10)

**No. 2:** 1 Samuel 20:24-34

**No. 3:** Why Genuine Modesty Is an Endearing Quality

**No. 4:** How the "Rest of the Dead" Come to Life on Earth (*rs* p. 338 ¶2–p. 339 ¶2)

**Apr. 18 Bible reading: 1 Samuel 23-25** **Song 61**

**Speech Quality:** Questions to Add Emphasis (*be* p. 239 ¶1-2)

**No. 1:** Trust in Jehovah With All Your Heart (*w*03 11/1 pp. 4-7)

**No. 2:** *w*03 5/1 p. 17 ¶11-14

**No. 3:** Those Who Are Included in the Earthly Resurrection (*rs* p. 339 ¶3–p. 340 ¶3)

**No. 4:** Why the Abrahamic Covenant

**Apr. 25 Bible reading: 1 Samuel 26-31 Song 217**
**Speech Quality:** Questions to Expose Wrong Thinking (*be* p. 239 ¶3-5)

**Oral Review**

**May 2 Bible reading: 2 Samuel 1-3 Song 91**
**Speech Quality:** Similes and Metaphors That Teach (*be* p. 240 ¶1–p. 241 ¶1)
**No. 1:** Education Is Not for Employment Only (*w*03 3/15 p. 11 ¶6–p. 14 ¶5)
**No. 2:** 2 Samuel 2:1-11
**No. 3:** The Events Associated With Christ's Presence Take Place Over a Period of Years (*rs* p. 341 ¶1-2)
**No. 4:** The Many Benefits of Being Honest

**May 9 Bible reading: 2 Samuel 4-8 Song 183**
**Speech Quality:** Using Examples (*be* p. 241 ¶2-4)
**No. 1:** Jehovah Is Genuinely Interested in Young People (*w*03 4/15 p. 29 ¶4–p. 31 ¶4)
**No. 2:** 2 Samuel 5:1-12
**No. 3:** What Did the Law Covenant Accomplish?
**No. 4:** Christ's Return Is Invisible (*rs* p. 341 ¶3–p. 342 ¶2)

**May 16 Bible reading: 2 Samuel 9-12 Song 66**
**Speech Quality:** Examples in Scripture (*be* p. 242 ¶1-2)
**No. 1:** Does Jehovah Notice What You Do? (*w*03 5/1 pp. 28-31)
**No. 2:** 2 Samuel 9:1-13
**No. 3:** The Manner of Jesus' Return and How Every Eye Will See Him (*rs* p. 342 ¶4–p. 343 ¶5)
**No. 4:** In What Ways Is the Word of God Alive? (Heb. 4:12)

**May 23 Bible reading: 2 Samuel 13-15 Song 103**
**Speech Quality:** Will It Be Understood? (*be* p. 242 ¶3–p. 243 ¶1)
**No. 1:** Noah's Log—Does It Have Meaning for Us? (*w*03 5/15 pp. 4-7)
**No. 2:** 2 Samuel 13:10-22
**No. 3:** How Are We to Understand John 11:25, 26?
**No. 4:** Events Associated With the Presence of Christ (*rs* p. 344 ¶1-5)

**May 30 Bible reading: 2 Samuel 16-18 Song 132**
**Speech Quality:** Illustrations From Familiar Situations (*be* p. 244 ¶1-2)
**No. 1:** Think Straight and Act Wisely (*w*03 7/15 pp. 21-3)
**No. 2:** *w*03 5/15 pp. 16-17 ¶8-11
**No. 3:** Christians Are Not Required to Keep the Sabbath (*rs* p. 345 ¶2–p. 346 ¶3)
**No. 4:** Why Humility Is Not a Weakness

**June 6 Bible reading: 2 Samuel 19-21 Song 224**
**Speech Quality:** Illustrations Appropriate for Your Audience (*be* p. 244 ¶3–p. 245 ¶4)
**No. 1:** Appreciating the Purpose of Discipline (*w*03 10/1 p. 20 ¶1–p. 21 ¶5)
**No. 2:** 2 Samuel 19:1-10
**No. 3:** How Can a Christian Enter God's Rest?
**No. 4:** No Bible Record of Adam's Keeping a Sabbath Day (*rs* p. 346 ¶4–p. 347 ¶2)

**June 13 Bible reading: 2 Samuel 22-24 Song 74**
**Speech Quality:** Effective Use of Visual Aids (*be* p. 247 ¶1-2)
**No. 1:** Be Teachable and Guard Your Tongue (*w*03 9/15 p. 21 ¶1–p. 22 ¶3)
**No. 2:** 2 Samuel 24:10-17
**No. 3:** Jesus Did Not Divide the Mosaic Law Into "Ceremonial" and "Moral" Parts (*rs* p. 347 ¶3–p. 348 ¶1)
**No. 4:** In What Ways Must a Christian Be Separate From the World?

**June 20 Bible reading: 1 Kings 1-2 Song 2**
**Speech Quality:** How Jesus Employed Visual Aids (*be* p. 247 ¶3)
**No. 1:** Learning the Secret of Self-Sufficiency (*w*03 6/1 pp. 8-11)
**No. 2:** *w*03 6/1 pp. 12-13 ¶1-4
**No. 3:** What Was Especially Significant About the Tenth Commandment?
**No. 4:** The Ten Commandments Passed Away With the Mosaic Law (*rs* p. 348 ¶2-3)

**June 27 Bible reading: 1 Kings 3-6 Song 167**
**Speech Quality:** Ways to Employ Visual Aids (*be* p. 248 ¶1-3)

**Oral Review**

**July 4 Bible reading: 1 Kings 7-8 Song 194**
**Speech Quality:** Using Maps, Printed Assembly Programs, and Videos (*be* p. 248 ¶4–p. 249 ¶2)
**No. 1:** Treasure Elderly Fellow Believers (*w*03 9/1 pp. 30-1)
**No. 2:** 1 Kings 8:1-13
**No. 3:** How Did Jesus Conquer the World?
**No. 4:** Why Moral Restraint Was Not Removed When the Ten Commandments Passed Away (*rs* p. 349 ¶1-2)

**July 11 Bible reading: 1 Kings 9-11 Song 191**
**Speech Quality:** Using Visual Aids for Larger Groups (*be* p. 249 ¶3–p. 250 ¶1)
**No. 1:** Evidence That Jesus Christ Walked the Earth (*w*03 6/15 pp. 4-7)
**No. 2:** 1 Kings 9:1-9
**No. 3:** What the Sabbath Means to Christians (*rs* p. 349 ¶3–p. 351 ¶2)
**No. 4:** Drug Addiction Can Be Overcome by Following Bible Principles

**July 18 Bible reading: 1 Kings 12-14 Song 162**
**Speech Quality:** Why a Reasoning Manner Is Important (*be* p. 251 ¶1-3)
**No. 1:** From Thoughts to Actions to Consequences (*w*03 1/15 p. 30 ¶1-3)
**No. 2:** 1 Kings 12:1-11
**No. 3:** How Faith Can Help Us to Meet Trials
**No. 4:** Whom the Bible Refers to as Saints (*rs* p. 352 ¶1–p. 353 ¶1)

**July 25 Bible reading: 1 Kings 15-17 Song 158**
**Speech Quality:** Where to Begin (*be* p. 251 ¶4–p. 252 ¶3)
**No. 1:** How to 'Perceive What the Will of Jehovah Is' (*w*03 12/1 p. 21 ¶3–p. 23 ¶3)
**No. 2:** *w*03 7/15 p. 19 ¶15-17
**No. 3:** Why We Do Not Pray to "Saints" (*rs* p. 353 ¶2-4)
**No. 4:** How Does the Holy Spirit Comfort Christians?

**Aug. 1 Bible reading: 1 Kings 18-20 Song 207**
**Speech Quality:** When to Yield (*be* p. 252 ¶4–p. 253 ¶2)
**No. 1:** Youths, Walk Worthily of Jehovah (*w*03 10/15 p. 23 ¶1–p. 24 ¶1)
**No. 2:** 1 Kings 18:1-15
**No. 3:** All Christians Can Bear Much Fruit
**No. 4:** The Truth About Venerating Relics and Images of "Saints" (*rs* p. 354 ¶1–p. 355 ¶1)

**Aug. 8 Bible reading: 1 Kings 21-22 Song 92**
**Speech Quality:** Asking Questions and Giving Reasons (*be* p. 253 ¶3–p. 254 ¶2)
**No. 1:** The Permanent Solution to Poverty (*w*03 8/1 pp. 4-7)
**No. 2:** 1 Kings 21:15-26
**No. 3:** True Christian Saints Are Not Free From Sin (*rs* p. 355 ¶2)
**No. 4:** Why Must We Have Courage, and How Can We Cultivate It?

**Aug. 15 Bible reading: 2 Kings 1-4 Song 16**
**Speech Quality:** Sound Arguments Based Firmly on God's Word (*be* p. 255 ¶1–p. 256 ¶2)
**No. 1:** You Received Free, Give Free (*w*03 8/1 pp. 20-2)
**No. 2:** 2 Kings 3:1-12
**No. 3:** Why Did People Before the Flood Live So Long?
**No. 4:** Universal Salvation Is Not Scriptural (*rs* p. 356 ¶3)

**Aug. 22 Bible reading: 2 Kings 5-8 Song 193**
**Speech Quality:** Support Arguments by Corroborative Evidence (*be* p. 256 ¶3-5)
**No. 1:** Learning the Art of Being Tactful (*w*03 8/1 pp. 29-31)
**No. 2:** *w*03 8/1 p. 19 ¶18-22
**No. 3:** Will All Humans Eventually Be Saved? (*rs* p. 357 ¶1)
**No. 4:** What Good Qualities of Jonah Should We Emulate?

**Aug. 29 Bible reading: 2 Kings 9-11 Song 129**

**Speech Quality:** Presenting Sufficient Evidence (*be* p. 256 ¶6–p. 257 ¶3)

**Oral Review**

**Sept. 5 Bible reading: 2 Kings 12-15 Song 175**

**Speech Quality:** Effort to Reach the Heart (*be* p. 258 ¶1-5)

**No. 1:** Are You Earnestly Seeking Jehovah? (*w*03 8/15 pp. 25-8)

**No. 2:** 2 Kings 12:1-12

**No. 3:** Why Pursue Mildness?

**No. 4:** "All Sorts of Men" Will Be Saved (*rs* p. 357 ¶2)

**Sept. 12 Bible reading: 2 Kings 16-18 Song 203**

**Speech Quality:** Drawing People Out (*be* p. 259 ¶1-3)

**No. 1:** What Did People Remember About Jesus? (*w*03 8/15 p. 6 ¶6–p. 8 ¶6)

**No. 2:** 2 Kings 16:10-20

**No. 3:** The Bible Says That Some Will Never Be Saved (*rs* p. 358 ¶1-3)

**No. 4:** How Can We Make Sure of What Is Acceptable to the Lord?

**Sept. 19 Bible reading: 2 Kings 19-22 Song 89**

**Speech Quality:** Stirring Up Beneficial Feelings (*be* p. 259 ¶4–p. 260 ¶1)

**No. 1:** "Keep Holding the Pattern of Healthful Words" (*w*03 1/1 p. 29 ¶3–p. 30 ¶4)

**No. 2:** 2 Kings 19:20-28

**No. 3:** Once Saved Does Not Mean Always Saved (*rs* p. 358 ¶4–p. 359 ¶1)

**No. 4:** What Can We Learn From Our Christian Brothers in Ancient Smyrna?

**Sept. 26 Bible reading: 2 Kings 23-25 Song 84**

**Speech Quality:** Helping Others to Cultivate Godly Fear (*be* p. 260 ¶2-3)

**No. 1:** The Bible and Its Canon—Part 1 (*si* p. 299 ¶1-6)

**No. 2:** *w*03 8/15 p. 20 ¶6-10

**No. 3:** We Are Optimistic About the Future

**No. 4:** Why Faith Must Have Works (*rs* p. 359 ¶2-5)

**Oct. 3 Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 1-4 Song 51**

**Speech Quality:** Our Conduct Matters to God (*be* p. 260 ¶4–p. 261 ¶1)

**No. 1:** The Bible and Its Canon—Part 2 (*si* pp. 300-2 ¶7-16)

**No. 2:** 1 Chronicles 4:24-43

**No. 3:** How We Know There Really Is a Devil (*rs* p. 361 ¶2–p. 362 ¶2)

**No. 4:** Jehovah Loves Us as Individuals

**Oct. 10 Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 5-7 Song 195**

**Speech Quality:** Helping Others to Make an Examination (*be* p. 261 ¶2-4)

**No. 1:** The Bible and Its Canon—Part 3 (*si* pp. 302-5 ¶17-26)

**No. 2:** 1 Chronicles 5:18-26

**No. 3:** What We Know About "the Day of Jehovah"

**No. 4:** Satan Is Not Just the Evil Within People (*rs* p. 362 ¶3–p. 363 ¶1)

**Oct. 17 Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 8-11 Song 201**

**Speech Quality:** Promoting Heartfelt Obedience (*be* p. 262 ¶1-4)

**No. 1:** The Hebrew Text of the Holy Scriptures—Part 1 (*si* pp. 305-6 ¶1-5)

**No. 2:** 1 Chronicles 10:1-14

**No. 3:** God Did Not Create the Devil (*rs* p. 363 ¶2)

**No. 4:** With Whom Should We Be Tactful?

**Oct. 24 Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 12-15 Song 80**

**Speech Quality:** Cooperating With Jehovah in Reaching People's Hearts (*be* p. 262 ¶5)

**No. 1:** The Hebrew Text of the Holy Scriptures—Part 2 (*si* pp. 306-7 ¶6-9)

**No. 2:** *w*03 11/1 pp. 10-11 ¶10-13

**No. 3:** What It Really Means to Walk in Jehovah's Name

**No. 4:** Why God Did Not Destroy Satan Promptly After He Rebelled (*rs* p. 363 ¶3–p. 364 ¶1)

**Oct. 31 Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 16-20 Song 129**

**Speech Quality:** Achieving Good Timing (*be* p. 263 ¶1–p. 264 ¶4)

**Oral Review**

**Nov. 7 Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 21-25 Song 215**

**Speech Quality:** Effective Exhortation (*be* p. 265 ¶1-3)

**No. 1:** The Hebrew Text of the Holy Scriptures—Part 3 (*si* pp. 307-10 ¶10-16)

**No. 2:** 1 Chronicles 22:1-10

**No. 3:** Do Not Underestimate the Devil's Power (*rs* p. 364 ¶2–p. 365 ¶2)

**No. 4:** *How Marriage Can Be Strengthened

**Nov. 14 Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 26-29 Song 35**

**Speech Quality:** Exhorting on the Basis of Love (*be* p. 266 ¶1-4)

**No. 1:** The Hebrew Text of the Holy Scriptures—Part 4 (*si* pp. 310-12 ¶17-25)

**No. 2:** 1 Chronicles 29:1-9

**No. 3:** Why Jehovah's Servants Are Persecuted

**No. 4:** Relief From Satan's Wicked Influence Is Near (*rs* p. 365 ¶4–p. 366 ¶3)

**Nov. 21 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 1-5 Song 46**

**Speech Quality:** Exhortation Rooted in Scripture (*be* p. 267 ¶1-2)

**No. 1:** The Hebrew Text of the Holy Scriptures—Part 5 (*si* pp. 312-14 ¶26-31)

**No. 2:** 2 Chronicles 2:1-10

**No. 3:** Appreciate the Purpose of Discipline

**No. 4:** *Are All Sexual Relations Sinful? (*rs* p. 367 ¶1–p. 368 ¶2)

**Nov. 28 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 6-9 Song 106**

**Speech Quality:** Having "Freeness of Speech" (*be* p. 267 ¶3-4)

**No. 1:** The Christian Greek Text of the Holy Scriptures—Part 1 (*si* pp. 315-16 ¶1-7)

**No. 2:** *w*03 12/1 pp. 15-16 ¶3-6

**No. 3:** How We Show That We Take Exquisite Delight in Jehovah

**No. 4:** *What the Bible Says About Homosexuality (*rs* p. 368 ¶4–p. 369 ¶2)

**Dec. 5 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 10-14 Song 116**

**Speech Quality:** Why It Is Important to Be Encouraging (*be* p. 268 ¶1-3)

**No. 1:** The Christian Greek Text of the Holy Scriptures—Part 2 (*si* pp. 316-17 ¶8-16)

**No. 2:** 2 Chronicles 12:1-12

**No. 3:** Why We Need God's Undeserved Kindness

**No. 4:** Changes That Must Be Made to Please God (*rs* p. 369 ¶3–p. 370 ¶1)

**Dec. 12 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 15-19 Song 182**

**Speech Quality:** Calling to Mind What Jehovah Has Done (*be* p. 268 ¶4–p. 269 ¶2)

**No. 1:** The Christian Greek Text of the Holy Scriptures—Part 3 (*si* pp. 317-19 ¶17-25)

**No. 2:** 2 Chronicles 19:1-11

**No. 3:** Why a Perfect Man Could Sin (*rs* p. 371 ¶2–p. 372 ¶3)

**No. 4:** What We Can Learn From Jesus' Family

**Dec. 19 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 20-24 Song 186**

**Speech Quality:** Showing How Jehovah Has Helped His People (*be* p. 269 ¶3-5)

**No. 1:** The Christian Greek Text of the Holy Scriptures—Part 4 (*si* pp. 319-20 ¶26-32)

**No. 2:** *w*03 12/15 pp. 16-17 ¶13-15

**No. 3:** Benefits From Learning the Secret of Self-Sufficiency

**No. 4:** Why We Recognize Sin for What It Is (*rs* p. 373 ¶1–p. 374 ¶1)

**Dec. 26 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 25-28 Song 137**

**Speech Quality:** Showing Delight in What God Is Doing Now (*be* p. 270 ¶1–p. 271 ¶2)

**Oral Review**

*Assign to brothers only.

#As time permits, consider responses to assertions, objections, and so forth, that will best meet needs in the local territory.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **October 1-17:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is shown, offer the *Require* brochure, making a special effort to start Bible studies. **October 18–November 14:** Special campaign distribution of *Keep on the Watch!* **November 15-30:** *Learn From the Great Teacher*. If individuals say they have no children, offer the *Require* brochure. When using the brochure, concentrate on starting home Bible studies. **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* As an alternative offer, you may use *My Book of Bible Stories, The Bible—God's Word or Man's?,* or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.* **January:** Any book published prior to 1990 that the congregation may have in stock. If you do not have any of these in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus of older publications on hand that you can use. Congregations that do not have older books may offer *Worship the Only True God.*

- Since October will have five full weekends, it would be an excellent month to auxiliary pioneer.

- The insert in this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* is the "Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 2005" and should be kept for reference throughout 2005.

- Beginning immediately, the following videos are approved for use in jails, prisons, state hospitals, and substance-abuse facilities: *Faithful Under Trials—Jehovah's Witnesses in the Soviet Union; Jehovah's Witnesses Stand Firm Against Nazi Assault; Broadcast Edition of Jehovah's Witnesses Stand Firm Against Nazi Assault* (56 minutes); *Jehovah's Witnesses—The Organization Behind the Name; Noah—He Walked With God; No Blood—Medicine Meets the Challenge; Our Whole Association of Brothers; Respect Jehovah's Authority; The Bible—Accurate History, Reliable Prophecy; The Bible—Its Power in Your Life; The Bible—Mankind's Oldest Modern Book; To the Ends of the Earth; Transfusion-Alternative Health Care—Meeting Patient Needs and Rights; Transfusion-Alternative Strategies—Simple, Safe, Effective; United by Divine Teaching; Warning Examples for Our Day;* and *Young People Ask—How Can I Make Real Friends?* Videos not included on this list should not be shown in the above-named facilities. Requests for any of these videos should be made by including them on the regular monthly *Literature Request Form* (S-14).

- If you are admitted to a hospital and want visiting local elders and, in larger cities, elders serving on a Patient Visitation Group to have access to your name, what must you do? When identifying yourself as one of Jehovah's Witnesses, you should also explain that you are willing to have a minister of Jehovah's Witnesses visit you. A recently enacted federal law, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), protects your privacy, but with your consent, the law allows for the elders to learn of your admission and provide spiritual encouragement.

## THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning October 25, 2004. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of September 6 through October 25, 2004. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

### SPEECH QUALITIES

1. How can we keep the tone positive when giving a talk about some aspect of our Christian activity? [*be* p. 203 pars. 3-4]
2. What is repetition, and why is it important? [*be* p. 206 pars. 1-4]
3. How can we emphasize the theme of our talks? [*be* p. 210 pars. 1-5, box]
4. How can we determine the main points in a talk that we are assigned to give? [*be* p. 212 pars. 1-4]
5. Why should we be careful not to have too many main points? [*be* p. 213 pars. 2-4]

### ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. What developments before the Flood might have made it difficult for people to believe that everything around them was going to end? [*w*02 3/1 pp. 5-6]
7. Why is it noteworthy that Jesus' contemporaries addressed him as "Teacher" and not "Healer"? (Luke 3:12; 7:40) [*w*02 5/1 p. 4 par. 3; p. 6 par. 6]
8. How does Proverbs 11:24, 25 highlight the value of having a full share in the field ministry? [*w*02 7/15 p. 30 pars. 2-4]
9. What moral issue was raised by the rebellion in Eden, and what have been the results of that rebellion? (Gen. 3:1-6) [*w*02 10/1 p. 5 par. 6; p. 6 pars. 2-3]
10. How is the date for the restoration of true worship in Jerusalem determined? [*si* p. 285 par. 5]

### WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. Since Jehovah told Balaam to go with Balak's men, why was He angry when Balaam went with them? (Num. 22:20-22)
12. Can a Christian woman's husband set aside her vows? (Num. 30:6-8)
13. What do the "cities of refuge" represent today? (Num. 35:6) [*w*95 11/15 p. 17 par. 8]
14. Is the command at Deuteronomy 6:6-9 to 'tie God's law upon the hand and upon the head as a frontlet band' to be understood literally?
15. Does the expression "your mantle did not wear out" mean only that the clothing supply of the Israelites was replenished? (Deut. 8:4)

# Special Campaign to Distribute New Brochure

[1] Many people today are troubled by world conditions, but few understand why things are the way they are, what lies ahead, and what they must do in order to be preserved alive through the coming judgment. (Ezek. 9:4) To help them wake up to the significance of our times, a special campaign to distribute the new brochure *Keep on the Watch!* will be conducted from Monday, October 18, through Sunday, November 14.

[2] The brochure may be offered when engaging in the house-to-house ministry, when making return visits, when witnessing informally, or when in a public setting. However, *Keep on the Watch!* should not be distributed indiscriminately. Rather, the brochures will be placed only with those who demonstrate interest in what the Bible says about the meaning of world events. Those who show minimal interest in the message might be offered a tract instead.

[3] *You might capture a person's attention by saying:*

■ "Many people are concerned about the serious problems and shocking events that are common today. [Cite an example known locally.] Did you know that such things were foretold in the Bible? [Allow for response. Then read a scripture text appropriate for the example cited, such as Matthew 24:3, 7, 8; Luke 21:7, 10, 11; or 2 Timothy 3:1-5.] The Bible reveals the meaning of our times and what lies ahead for mankind. Would you like to know more? [Allow for response. Offer brochure if sincere interest is shown.] The brochure is available without charge. If you desire to make a modest donation to our worldwide work, we would be pleased to accept it."

[4] *Or you might find this approach effective:*

■ "Many today are distressed by shocking events or by severe personal loss. Some wonder why God does not intervene to prevent such things. The Bible assures us that God will soon act to relieve mankind's suffering. Notice what benefits God will bring to mankind. [Read Psalm 37:10, 11.] Would you like to know more?" Conclude as outlined above.

[5] Try to obtain the name and address of each person who accepts a copy of the brochure, and arrange to return to cultivate the interest. Suggestions on how this can be done will appear in the November 2004 issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry.* If a person shows keen interest on the initial call, you may be able to start a Bible study on the spot using either *Keep on the Watch!* or another publication, such as the *Require* brochure.

[6] Copies of the new brochure will be available following the Service Meeting in which this article is discussed. It is suggested that publishers and pioneers initially take only what they will need for the first few days of the campaign. May Jehovah bless this special activity to his praise and to the benefit of honesthearted ones everywhere.—Ps. 90:17.

## What to Say About the Magazines

◆

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **Oct. 15**

"Some people believe that the more money they have the more satisfying their life will be. Do you think that is true? [Allow for response.] Notice what a man who was enormously wealthy wrote. [Read Ecclesiastes 5:10.] This magazine discusses values that transcend material wealth."

**Awake! Oct. 22**

"Many people see the importance of training children from an early age. Do you see a need for this today? [Allow for response. Then read Proverbs 22:6.] This issue of *Awake!* discusses specific things parents can do to help their children develop into upright and successful adults."

THE WATCHTOWER ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM **Nov. 1**

"Many people lack confidence in the ability of human leaders to solve today's problems. Do you think there is anyone who can fulfill what is foretold in these verses? [Read Psalm 72:7, 12, 16. Then allow for response.] This magazine explains who this foretold leader is and what he will accomplish."

**Awake! Nov. 8**

"Children need guidance to withstand the pressures they face today, wouldn't you agree? [Allow for response. Then read Ephesians 6:4.] This magazine examines the true meaning of discipline. It also discusses how parents can provide guidance and correction without disheartening their children."

# OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

November 2004 For United States of America *km*-E Us 11/04 Vol. 47, No. 11

## Keep a Sense of Urgency!

1 Jesus knew that the time he had on earth to accomplish his Father's work was limited. (John 9:4) Hence, he carried out his ministry with a sense of urgency, and he trained his disciples to do the same. (Luke 4:42-44; 8:1; 10:2-4) Material comforts were of secondary importance to him. (Matt. 8:20) Thus, he was able to finish the work Jehovah had given him to do. —John 17:4.

2 **Limited Time:** The time to preach the good news in "all the inhabited earth" is also limited. (Matt. 24:14) Bible prophecy reveals that we are living deep in the time of the end. Soon "those who do not know God and those who do not obey the good news about our Lord Jesus . . . will undergo the judicial punishment of everlasting destruction." (2 Thess. 1:6-9) That judgment will arrive with striking suddenness. (Luke 21:34, 35; 1 Thess. 5:2, 3) People need to wake up to their perilous situation. It is our responsibility to help them to seek Jehovah's favor while there is yet time. —Zeph. 2:2, 3.

3 **Doing All We Can:** Recognizing that "the time left is reduced," God's servants give priority to the preaching work. (1 Cor. 7:29-31; Matt. 6:33) Some have forgone economic opportunities or other personal pursuits in order to increase their share in the ministry. (Mark 10:29, 30) Others continue to have "plenty to do in the work of the Lord" despite enduring trials. (1 Cor. 15:58) Many have been publicly declaring the good news for decades without wavering. (Heb. 10:23) Jehovah highly values all such sacrifices in support of Kingdom interests.—Heb. 6:10.

4 Centering our lives on the worship of Jehovah, which includes the preaching work, helps us to keep Jehovah's day close in mind. It protects us from becoming distracted by Satan's world and fortifies our resolve to maintain holy conduct. (2 Pet. 3:11-14) Indeed, carrying out our ministry with a sense of urgency can be lifesaving, both for ourselves and for those who listen to us. —1 Tim. 4:16.

## Can You Extend a Helping Hand?

1 Jehovah is always looking for ways to extend a helping hand to his loyal servants. (2 Chron. 16:9; Isa. 41:10, 13) Likening him to a caring shepherd, Isaiah wrote: "With his arm he will collect together the lambs; and in his bosom he will carry them. Those giving suck he will conduct with care." (Isa. 40:11) Consider some ways in which we can imitate Jehovah's loving concern.

2 **Reach Out to New Ones:** We can extend a helping hand by inviting new ones to enjoy upbuilding association with us. (Prov. 13:20) *Recalling how others reached out to him when he began associating with the congregation, one brother said:* "On several occasions, a family included me in their family study. As I progressed, a young pioneer couple regularly invited me to join them for full days in the ministry. We always had great spiritual conversations." He added: "Before becoming a Christian, I used to go out on Friday and Saturday nights. But the time I spent with the brothers filled my need for association." The loving interest of the congregation helped this brother to become well rooted and stabilized in the faith, and he now serves as a member of the Bethel family.—Col. 2:6, 7.

3 **Build One Another Up:** We may discern an opportunity to extend a helping hand when our brothers face challenging circumstances. Could you arrange to do telephone witnessing with an infirm publisher or invite him to accompany you on a Bible study, perhaps even bringing the student to his home? Might a parent with small children appreciate a helping hand when sharing in the ministry? Are there timid ones who would welcome your assistance when making return visits or when engaging in some other facet of the ministry? Loving interest in our brothers will move us to look for ways to build them up. —Rom. 14:19.

4 As we imitate Jehovah's tender concern for his servants, we strengthen one another, help draw the congregation together in love, and glorify our heavenly Father. —Eph. 4:16.

## Service Meeting Schedule

### Week Starting November 8

Song 180

**10 min:** Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* The special campaign to distribute *Keep on the Watch!* will conclude on November 14. For the remainder of November, we will offer *Learn From the Great Teacher*. Briefly review the suggested presentations from the May 2004 *Our Kingdom Ministry,* page 3.

**15 min:** Benefit Fully From the Service Meeting. Audience discussion based on the *Our Ministry* book, pages 71-2. In what five areas does the Service Meeting help us improve as Christian ministers? Cite examples from current month's program. What are the benefits of preparing beforehand? Why attend regularly? What Scriptural precedent is there for this meeting?

**20 min:** "Keep a Sense of Urgency!"* Include comments on the January 15, 2000, *Watchtower,* pages 12-13.

Song 19 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting November 15

Song 170

**10 min:** Local announcements. If the suggestions on page 4 are practical for your congregation territory, use them to demonstrate how to present the November 15 *Watchtower* and the November 22 *Awake!* Other realistic presentations may be used.

**15 min:** Do You Know the Happiness That Comes From Giving? Talk based on the November 1, 2004, *Watchtower,* pages 19-23.

**20 min:** Cultivate Interest Using the New Brochure. Talk and audience discussion to be handled by the service overseer. We should return to cultivate the interest of each person who accepted a copy of *Keep on the Watch!* Using the table of contents on page 2, give a brief overview of the brochure, drawing attention to the concise highlighted sections (listed in regular type under the bold headings). This material can be used for short, meaningful follow-up discussions. For example, if pages 3-4 were featured on the initial call, the highlighted section "Does God Really Care?" on page 5 could be used to make a return visit. Discuss how that could be done. Review other highlighted sections, such as those on pages 6-8 and 17-18 or others appropriate for the local territory. Demonstrate a return visit, using one of the highlighted sections. One or more of the cited scriptures should be read and discussed. Publisher concludes by drawing attention to another highlighted section that could be discussed on the next visit.

Song 66 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting November 22

Song 199

**10 min:** Local announcements. Accounts report.

**15 min:** Local needs.

**20 min:** Starting Bible Studies With Those Who Accepted the New Brochure. Talk and audience discussion to be handled by the service overseer. Briefly review the return visit demonstrated on the previous Service Meeting, noting especially the highlighted section that was mentioned at the conclusion of that visit. Have the same publishers (if possible) use that material to demonstrate the next return visit. Publisher then uses back cover of the brochure to offer a Bible study, and arrangements are made to consider lesson 1 of the *Require* brochure on the next visit. Encourage all to focus on starting Bible studies with those who accepted a copy of *Keep on the Watch!*

Song 58 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting November 29

Song 23

**10 min:** Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for November. Demonstrate how to present the December 1 *Watchtower* and the December 8 *Awake!*

**10 min:** Question Box. Talk by an elder.

**25 min:** "Conducting Progressive Bible Studies—Part 3."* Use the questions that are provided. After discussing paragraph 3, include a brief demonstration of a Bible study in the *Require* brochure, lesson 5, paragraph 1. The paragraph has already been read and the question answered. The conductor and student read and discuss Isaiah 45:18 and Ecclesiastes 1:4. The conductor uses simple questions to prompt the student to explain how each text bears on the point under consideration.

Song 178 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting December 6

Song 96

**10 min:** Local announcements. Mention literature offer for December. Demonstrate one or two presentations that could be used when offering the *Greatest Man* book.

**20 min:** "Can You Extend a Helping Hand?"* Interview one or two publishers who appreciated assistance or encouragement that was extended by others.

**15 min:** Local experiences. Invite audience to relate experiences enjoyed in following up placements of *Keep on the Watch!* Arrange in advance to reenact outstanding experiences. Commend all for their support of the special campaign.

Song 101 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

#### August Service Report

| Number of: | | Av. Hrs. | Av. Mags. | Av. R.V. | Av. Bi.St. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sp'l Pios. | 130 | 85.0 | 92.6 | 37.8 | 4.7 |
| Pios. | 90,396 | 56.2 | 35.5 | 18.1 | 1.9 |
| Aux. Pios. | 19,940 | 49.5 | 34.8 | 12.9 | 1.1 |
| Pubs. | 909,230 | 9.1 | 8.2 | 3.5 | 0.3 |
| TOTAL | 1,019,696 | | Baptized: 2,624 | | |

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Literature offer for **October 18–November 14:** Special campaign distribution of *Keep on the Watch!* **November 15-30:** *Learn From the Great Teacher.* If individuals say they have no children, offer the *Require* brochure. When using the brochure, concentrate on starting home Bible studies. **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* As an alternative offer, you may use *My Book of Bible Stories, The Bible–God's Word or Man's?,* or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.* **January:** Any book published prior to 1990 that the congregation may have in stock. If you do not have any of these in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus of older publications on hand that you can use. Congregations that do not have older books may offer *Worship the Only True God.* **February:** *Draw Close to Jehovah.* If this publication is not available, you may use the *Creation* book (large or small size) or the *Revelation Climax* book as an alternative offer.
- The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on December 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. If a separate checking account is maintained, such as for maintenance or construction, arrangements should also be made to audit this account. When the audit(s) have been completed, this should be announced to the congregation with the next accounts report.
- Congregations should begin requesting bound volumes of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* for 2004 with their next literature request. A listing of the languages in which these items are available will appear in the "Announcement to All Congregations," which is mailed each month. Until the bound volumes are available and shipments are made, these will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. Bound volumes are special-request items.
- Beginning the week of May 23, 2005, we will study *Keep on the Watch!* at the Congregation Book Study.
- It is necessary for the branch office to maintain an up-to-date record of addresses and telephone numbers for all presiding overseers and secretaries. If there is a change at any time, the Congregation Service Committee should complete, sign, and send a *Presiding Overseer/Secretary Change of Address* (S-29) form to the branch office promptly. This includes any changes in telephone area codes.
- The secretary of each congregation holding title to property should review paragraphs 42-4 in the form entitled *Information Regarding Ownership of Kingdom Halls* (T-36). Even after real-estate tax exemption has been obtained, an annual filing is required in some states. Check carefully with your local tax assessor's office to confirm whether any action is required. All taxes and assessments are to be paid within the time provided. If any tax or assessment is questioned, promptly follow through on the matter so that either it is removed or a proper challenge is filed within the applicable time limit.
- Donations made by check and put in the local Kingdom Hall contribution boxes for the worldwide work and the Kingdom Hall Fund should be made payable to "Jehovah's Witnesses." Donations made by check at district conventions and those sent to the branch office should be made payable to "Watch Tower." The branch office financial address is Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania, c/o Office of the Secretary and Treasurer, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483.

## QUESTION BOX

- How should we care for congregation assignments?

The orderly functioning of a congregation of Jehovah's people is the result of united effort. (1 Cor. 14:33, 40) Think of what is involved with just one congregation meeting. Besides the program itself, there is much activity before and after the meeting as brothers and sisters care for various assignments. Other duties that are cared for out of public view are also important. How can each of us contribute to this arrangement?

*Make yourself available.* Those with a willing spirit will find plenty of things to do. (Ps. 110:3) Show concern for the sick and elderly. Assist with the cleaning of the Kingdom Hall. We can perform many beneficial deeds without a special invitation. We simply need a desire to help.

*Serve modestly.* Modest people are happy serving others. (Luke 9:48) Modesty will prevent us from taking on more than we can realistically handle. Further, modesty will keep us from exceeding the limits of our authority.—Prov. 11:2.

*Be trustworthy.* Moses was encouraged to select "trustworthy men" to handle positions of responsibility in ancient Israel. (Ex. 18:21) This same quality is needed today. Conscientiously care for each assignment you receive. (Luke 16:10) If you are unable to fulfill an assignment, make sure that appropriate arrangements are made for someone to care for it in your absence.

*Give your best.* Christians are exhorted to work whole-souled even in secular matters. (Col. 3:22-24) There is greater reason to do so when working to advance true worship. Even if a task appears to be lowly or insignificant, it is a blessing to the congregation when it is done well.

Each assignment provides us with an opportunity to demonstrate our love for Jehovah and our brothers. (Matt. 22:37-39) May we faithfully care for whatever duties are entrusted to us.

# Conducting Progressive Bible Studies

## Part 3: Effective Use of the Scriptures

1 Our purpose in conducting Bible studies is to "make disciples" by helping people to understand and accept the teachings of God's Word and apply them in their lives. (Matt. 28:19, 20; 1 Thess. 2:13) Therefore, the study should center on the Scriptures. At first, it may be helpful to show students how to find specific texts in their own copy of the Bible. How, though, can we use the Scriptures to help such ones to progress spiritually?

2 **Select Texts to Read:** In your preparation, determine how each cited scripture in the lesson applies to the point under consideration, and decide which ones you will look up and discuss during the study. Generally, it is good to read those that show the Scriptural basis for our beliefs. Texts that provide background information may not need to be read. Take into consideration the needs and circumstances of each student.

3 **Use Questions:** Instead of explaining Bible texts to the student, have him explain them to you. You can prompt him to do this by the skillful use of questions. If the application of a scripture is obvious, you might simply ask how the text supports what is stated in the paragraph. In other cases, a more specific question or series of questions may be needed to direct the student to the proper conclusion. If further explanations are needed, these can be made after the student has responded.

4 **Keep It Simple:** A skilled archer often needs just one arrow to hit a target. Similarly, a skilled teacher does not require many words to make a point. He can convey information simply, clearly, and accurately. At times, you may need to do research in Christian publications to understand a scripture and explain it correctly. (2 Tim. 2:15) But avoid trying to explain every aspect of each scripture in the study. Include only what is needed to make the point under consideration.

5 **Make Practical Application:** When appropriate, help the student to see how Bible texts apply to him personally. For example, when considering Hebrews 10:24, 25 with a student who is not yet attending Christian meetings, you might discuss one of the meetings and invite him to attend it. But avoid pressuring him. Allow God's Word to motivate him to take the action needed to please Jehovah.—Heb. 4:12.

6 As we carry out the commission to make disciples, may we "promote obedience by faith" through our effective use of the Scriptures.—Rom. 16:26.

1. Why should we emphasize the Scriptures when conducting Bible studies?
2. How do we decide which Bible texts to read and discuss?
3. What is the benefit of using questions, and how can we do this?
4. How much explanation is needed for the scriptures we read?
5, 6. How can we help students to apply God's Word in their life, but what should we avoid?

## What to Say About the Magazines

### THE WATCHTOWER Nov. 15

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"Most people desire good health and a long life. But if it was possible, would you want to live forever? [Allow for response. Then read John 17:3.] This magazine discusses the Bible's promise of everlasting life. It also examines what life will be like when that promise becomes a reality."

### Awake! Nov. 22

"In the past 20 years, much progress has been made in the understanding and treatment of AIDS. Yet, many people are still misinformed. [Show the box "Myths About AIDS," and allow for comment.] This magazine discusses how parents can protect their children." Read Deuteronomy 6:6, 7.

### THE WATCHTOWER Dec. 1

ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH'S KINGDOM

"One trait that distinguishes humans from animals is the ability to tell right from wrong. Sadly, many people do bad things. Why do you think that is? [Allow for response. Then read Jeremiah 17:9 or Revelation 12:9.] This magazine discusses what can help us *to know* and *to do* what is right."

### Awake! Dec. 8

"Advances in technology have not changed the basic human need for friendship. But have you noticed that changes in society can make it a challenge nowadays to cultivate close friendships? [Allow for response. Then read Proverbs 18:24.] This magazine discusses how we can make and keep real friends."

# OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

December 2004 For United States of America *km*-E Us 12/04 Vol. 47, No. 12

## Your Help Is Needed

1 “Thank you for all you do in behalf of all of us. It really makes a difference.” That comment well expresses the gratitude we feel for our elders and ministerial servants. As God’s organization continues to expand, there is an ongoing need for mature men to serve in the nearly 100,000 congregations worldwide. If you are a baptized brother, your help is needed.

2 **“Reaching Out”:** How can you reach out for additional service privileges? (1 Tim. 3:1) Basically, by setting a fine example in all aspects of your life. (1 Tim. 4:12; Titus 2:6-8; 1 Pet. 5:3) Have a full share in the preaching work, and assist others to do likewise. (2 Tim. 4:5) Take a sincere interest in the welfare of fellow believers. (Rom. 12:13) Be a good student of God’s Word, and develop the “art of teaching.” (Titus 1:9; 1 Tim. 4:13) Diligently care for the assignments entrusted to you by the elders. (1 Tim. 3:10) If you are a family head, ‘preside over your household in a fine manner.’—1 Tim. 3:4, 5, 12.

3 Serving in an appointed capacity involves hard work and requires a spirit of self-sacrifice. (1 Tim. 5:17) Therefore, in reaching out, focus on humbly serving others. (Matt. 20:25-28; John 13:3-5, 12-17) Meditate on the disposition of Timothy, and seek to imitate it. (Phil. 2:20-22) Like him, let your fine conduct recommend you. (Acts 16:1, 2) As you cultivate the spiritual qualities needed to handle added privileges and apply any counsel for improvement that you receive, “your advancement [will] be manifest to all persons.”—1 Tim. 4:15.

4 **Parents, Train Young Ones to Help:** Children can begin learning to help from an early age. Train them to pay attention at meetings, to preach, and to be exemplary in conduct at the Kingdom Hall and at school. Get them involved in serving others, doing things such as assisting with Kingdom Hall cleaning, helping the elderly, and so forth. Allow them to experience the happiness that comes from giving. (Acts 20:35) Such training can help them to become the pioneers, the ministerial servants, and the elders of tomorrow.

## Conducting Progressive Bible Studies

### Part 4: Training Students to Prepare

1 A student who reads the lesson beforehand, marks the answers, and thinks of how to express them in his own words should make rapid spiritual progress. Therefore, once a regular study has been established, prepare a lesson together to show the student how. With most students, it will be helpful to prepare an entire chapter or lesson together.

2 **Markings and Notations:** Explain how to find direct answers to the printed questions. Show the student your copy of the study publication in which you have marked only the key words or phrases. As you consider the material, he may want to follow your example, marking in his copy only what is needed to help him recall the answer. (Luke 6:40) Then ask him to give the answer in his own words. This will allow you to see how well he understands the material.

3 A careful examination of unquoted scriptures is an important part of the student’s preparation for the study. (Acts 17:11) Help him to see that each cited text supports a point in the paragraph. Show him how to make brief notations in the margin of his study publication. Keep before him the fact that the Bible is the basis for what he is learning. Encourage him to make generous use of the cited scriptures in his comments during the study.

4 **Survey and Review:** Before the student begins his detailed preparation of the study material, it will be helpful for him to get an overview of the subject. Point out that he can survey the material by briefly examining the chapter title, subheadings, and illustrations. Explain that before concluding his session of preparation, he would be wise to take a moment to review the main points presented in the lesson, perhaps using the review box if one is provided. Such repetition will help him retain the information.

5 Training the student to prepare well for his study will help him to make meaningful comments at congregation meetings. It will also help him to develop study habits that will benefit him long after his personal Bible study is completed.

# SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

### Week Starting December 13

Song 47

**10 min:** Local announcements and selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry.* Encourage everyone to view the video *No Blood—Medicine Meets the Challenge* in preparation for the discussion next week. Outline special field service arrangements for December 25 and January 1. Use the suggestions on page 8 (if appropriate for your territory) to demonstrate how to present the December 15 *Watchtower* and the December 22 *Awake!* Other realistic presentations may be used. In each case, show a different way to handle the conversation stopper "I am already acquainted with your work."—See *Reasoning* book, p. 20.

**15 min:** "Your Help Is Needed."* Briefly interview an elder. Have him relate what encouraged him to reach out to serve in the congregation and what helped him to qualify.

**20 min:** "Witnessing to Relatives—How?"* Use the questions that are provided. Invite audience to make brief comments on how they have been able to arouse interest and give a witness to relatives.

Song 17 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting December 20

Song 68

**5 min:** Local announcements.

**15 min:** "How the Theocratic Ministry School Benefits Us." Talk by the school overseer. Include comments from the October 2004 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert. Arrange in advance for one or two to comment on how they are benefiting from the school.

**25 min:** "Benefit From the Video *No Blood—Medicine Meets the Challenge.*" An audience discussion of the *No Blood* video, using the questions provided on page 6. Afterward, read the last paragraph. Encourage all to be present next week for the discussion of a new provision to assist us to abstain from blood.

Song 50 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting December 27

Song 36

**10 min:** Local announcements. Accounts report. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for December. Using the suggestions on page 8 (if appropriate for your territory), demonstrate how to present either the January 1 *Watchtower* or the January 8 *Awake!*

**25 min:** Obeying God's Command to Abstain From Blood. Talk by an elder, using manuscript supplied by the branch office. Mention at outset that DPA cards are not to be filled out tonight. While reading the manuscript, the speaker may add brief comments to emphasize key points but should not supplement the material with additional examples or scriptures. Cited scriptures may be read or quoted as time permits. At appropriate points, draw attention to statements in the box "New Provision to Assist Us to Abstain From Blood." The secretary should provide all baptized publishers with a DPA card and the "Instructions for Filling Out the DPA Card" to enable them to follow along during the part. The secretary should also make sure that a sufficient quantity of *Identity Cards* are available.

**10 min:** The Role of Your Conscience. Talk by an elder, based on the June 15, 2004, *Watchtower,* pages 23-4, paragraphs 16-19. Emphasize that decisions we face on matters of conscience are serious, since they involve our relationship with Jehovah.

Song 8 and concluding prayer.

### Week Starting January 3

Song 27

**Note:** Congregations are not to move their Service Meeting for the week of January 3 to an earlier night unless the circuit overseer is visiting. In every congregation, the convention insert should be considered on the Service Meeting as scheduled. If there is a circuit assembly this week, book study overseers should announce the convention location and dates at their regularly scheduled book studies. A copy of the Recommended Lodging List should be made available by the overseer so that those in attendance can copy the hotel phone numbers for making their reservations. However, copies of this list should not be made for individual publishers.

**5 min:** Local announcements. Mention literature offer for January.

**15 min:** "Conducting Progressive Bible Studies—Part 4." After an introduction of no more than one minute based on paragraph 1, have a five-minute demonstration based on paragraphs 2-3, portraying a Bible study conductor showing a student how to prepare for the study. Use a paragraph from either the *Knowledge* book or the *Require* brochure in the demonstration. Follow with a question-and-answer discussion of paragraphs 2-5, highlighting the key points from the demonstration.

**25 min:** "2005 'Godly Obedience' District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses."* To be handled by the congregation secretary. After considering paragraph 2, read the December 15, 2004, convention assignment letter. When discussing paragraph 4, consider all the points in the boxes on page 4. Encourage all to make their convention arrangements as soon as possible.

Song 79 and concluding prayer.

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* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

## SEPTEMBER SERVICE REPORT

| Number of: | | Av. Hrs. | Av. Mags. | Av. R.V. | Av. Bi.St. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sp'l Pios. | 214 | 98.6 | 98.4 | 43.5 | 4.4 |
| Pios. | 93,503 | 67.1 | 47.2 | 20.9 | 1.9 |
| Aux. Pios. | 21,560 | 50.7 | 38.0 | 13.5 | 1.1 |
| Pubs. | 875,274 | 9.3 | 8.4 | 3.5 | 0.3 |
| TOTAL | 990,551 | | | Baptized: | 1,791 |

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# 2005 "Godly Obedience" District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses

[1] As our Grand Instructor, Jehovah God arranges for us to assemble to be instructed in his ways. (Isa. 30:20, 21; 54:13) He does this through the faithful and discreet slave class, which arranges for such meetings as our annual district conventions. (Matt. 24:45-47) Our sentiments are like those of the psalmist David, who sang: "Among the congregated throngs I shall bless Jehovah." (Ps. 26:12) David clearly understood the value of being taught by Jehovah and was determined to be among His people whenever they gathered together.

[2] Will you be among "the congregated throngs" who will attend the "Godly Obedience" District Convention this year? If so, the following information will prove helpful in making your preparations to attend.

[3] **Plan Now to Attend Every Day:** "The plans of the diligent one surely make for advantage." (Prov. 21:5) Do not those words emphasize the value of making plans without delay to attend the convention? To ensure that you will not miss any of the spiritually refreshing program, wisely start now to make whatever arrangements are needed for you to attend all three days. If you have to ask your employer for time off, do so right away. If you need to discuss your plans with your unbelieving mate, do not leave this to the last minute. Whatever challenges you face, make them a matter of prayer to Jehovah, trusting that with his help "your plans will be firmly established." (Prov. 16:3) Additionally, it would be good to assist your Bible students with their preparations to be present at every session.

## Program Times

Friday and Saturday
9:30 a.m. - 5:05 p.m.
Sunday
9:30 a.m. - 4:10 p.m.

[4] **Accommodations:** For your convenience, rooming arrangements have already been made in each convention city. A Recommended Lodging List of available hotels will be posted on the information board after this article is considered at the Service Meeting. Please reserve rooms only at hotels on the list, and agree to pay only the rates shown. Your cooperation will make it possible for the branch office to continue to arrange for high-quality hotels at reduced rates. Bear in mind that the best quality hotels are not necessarily the closest to the convention site. Before you call to make your reservation, review the points in the box "How You Can Support the Rooming Arrangements." When you call, follow the steps in the box "What Is the Best Way to Reserve a Hotel Room?"

[5] **Special Needs:** The apostle Paul described certain brothers as being "a strengthening aid" to him. (Col. 4:7-11) One of the ways they helped was by providing personal services for Paul. How can you be "a strengthening aid" to others in connection with the convention? Elderly publishers, the infirm, those in full-time service, and others may require practical assistance with transportation or accommodations. Relatives have the primary responsibility to care for such ones. (1 Tim. 5:4) If they cannot do so, however, fellow believers may be able to help. (Jas. 1:27) Book study overseers should check with those in their group who have special needs to be sure that their plans are in order well in advance of the convention.

## How You Can Support the Rooming Arrangements

- Stay only in hotels on this year's Recommended Lodging List. Do not call hotels that are not on the list and ask if they have a rate for our convention. Hotels that are not on the list will often say they have a rate for Jehovah's Witnesses.
- To comply with fire safety laws, plan on having no more than four persons in each room, including children, unless the list indicates otherwise under the heading "Adults."
- If no rooms are available when you call all the hotels on the list or if you have a problem with a hotel, inform your congregation secretary. He should contact your convention's Rooming Department, using the information at the top of the list. Please wait for a revised list to be received for your convention rather than calling a hotel not on the list.
- Reserve only the rooms you will actually use.
- To guarantee your reservation, you must make a deposit to the hotel for each room reserved. Otherwise, the hotel can offer your room to someone else.
- Keep your first reservation.
- If your congregation has its circuit assembly the week that the convention assignment letter is to be read, the secretary may make a copy of the Recommended Lodging List for each book study overseer to show to his group. No copies of the list are to be made for individual publishers.

[6] *Special Needs Room Request* forms are available *only* for publishers whose accommodation *needs* cannot be cared for by family members or by their congregation. The Congregation Service Committee should consider the publisher's qualifications, using the guidelines on the form as well as the letter dated December 14, 2004, addressed to all bodies of elders. This provision is only for publishers in good standing, along with their well-behaved children.

[7] **Attending Another Convention:** To ensure that there is sufficient seating, literature, rooming accommodations, and so forth, publishers are encouraged to attend the convention to which their congregation is assigned. If circumstances require that you attend a different convention, please see your congregation secretary for the mailing address of the convention you will attend, which is printed on the back of the *Special Needs Room Request* form. Be sure to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope with your request for the Recommended Lodging List or any additional information. If there is more than one convention being held in the city, indicate the dates of the convention that you will attend.

[8] **Volunteers Needed:** Jesus set a perfect example in being humbly attentive to the needs of others. (Luke 9:12-17; John 13:5, 14-16) Those who volunteer to work at conventions reflect a similar spirit. To fill the needs of convention departments, local Convention Committees will soon be inviting others to work with them. There is especially a need for elders to volunteer and accept assignments. Their willing spirit provides a fine example for all in the congregation.—1 Pet. 5:2, 3.

## What Is the Best Way to Reserve a Hotel Room?

1. Call hotels during regular business hours, using the telephone numbers on the Recommended Lodging List.
2. Inform the hotel that you are attending the convention of Jehovah's Witnesses.
3. Specify the dates you will check in and check out of the hotel.
4. If no more rooms are available, call another hotel on the list.
5. *Do not* accept a higher rate than what is shown on the list.
6. Make your reservation, and ask for a confirmation number.
7. Make your deposit by credit card, check, or money order *within ten days. Never* send cash. If a deposit is made by check or money order, write the confirmation number on the front.

[9] **What Others See:** A hotel sales manager said: "You people are our very favorite group. You are so well behaved compared with any other group. The maids all comment on how nicely they are treated and how they receive tips. In fact, everyone wants to work the weekend you are here!" Another hotel representative commented: "Jehovah's Witnesses are the easiest group to work with." Perhaps your exemplary conduct contributed to these statements. Imagine how happy Jehovah must feel when he sees us acting in a way that brings such praise! —1 Pet. 2:12.

[10] Through "the faithful steward," Jehovah God has arranged for his people to assemble for spiritual instruction this coming summer. (Luke 12:42) Making preparations to attend all three days will require effort but will be well worth it. This year's "Godly Obedience" District Convention will without fail strengthen our resolve to serve Jehovah now and on into eternity. May we be determined to follow the psalmist's admonition: "In congregated throngs bless God."—Ps. 68:26.

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## THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

The following questions will be considered orally at the Theocratic Ministry School during the week beginning December 27, 2004. The school overseer will conduct a 30-minute review based on material covered in assignments for the weeks of November 1 through December 27, 2004. [Note: Where there are no references after the question, you will need to do your own research to find the answers.—See *Ministry School,* pp. 36-7.]

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### SPEECH QUALITIES

1. What is one of the best ways to arouse the interest of the audience in a subject? [*be* p. 218 par. 3]
2. List five characteristics of an effective conclusion. [*be* p. 220 par. 4–p. 221 par. 4]
3. How can we ensure that our statements are accurate? [*be* p. 224 box]
4. How can we make sure that our presentations at the meetings reflect high regard for the congregation's role as "a pillar and support of the truth"? (1 Tim. 3:15) [*be* p. 224 pars. 1-4]
5. When it comes to current events, quotations, and experiences, how may we apply Proverbs 14:15? [*be* p. 225 par. 1]

### ASSIGNMENT NO. 1

6. How can the time from the Flood back to Adam's creation be calculated? [*si* p. 286 par. 12]
7. How can the date for the start of Jesus' ministry be determined, and what basis is there for believing that it lasted just three and a half years? [*si* p. 291 par. 16]
8. (a) When did "the word to restore and to rebuild Jerusalem" go forth? (b) How many years would elapse from that time until Jesus would appear as the Messiah? (Dan. 9:24-27) [*si* p. 291 pars. 18-19]
9. What is included in a sincere apology that results in 'making peace with our brother'? (Matt. 5:23, 24) [*w*02 11/1 p. 6 pars. 1, 5]
10. What does 2 Kings 13:18, 19 teach us about accomplishing God-assigned tasks? [*w*02 12/1 p. 31 pars. 1-2]

### WEEKLY BIBLE READING

11. Why could the Israelites give to an alien resident or sell to a foreigner an unbled dead animal that they themselves would not eat? (Deut. 14:21)
12. What lesson is provided for us at Deuteronomy 20:5-7?
13. Why was seizing "a hand mill or its upper grindstone as a pledge" likened to seizing "a soul"? (Deut. 24:6)
14. Since the Israelites were forbidden to eat any fat, what is meant by their eating "the fat of rams"? (Deut. 32:13, 14)
15. What is a modern-day parallel to Achan's sinful course? (Josh. 7:1-26) [*w*86 12/15 p. 20 par. 20]

## How the Theocratic Ministry School Benefits Us

[1] Jehovah's people have the distinct privilege of receiving theocratic education. (Isa. 54:13; John 6:45) The extent to which we benefit from it, however, depends largely on the effort we exert. Can you discern the positive effects the Theocratic Ministry School is having on your spirituality?

[2] **Appreciative Comments:** Many school overseers have noted that the in-depth study of speech qualities has improved their congregations' effectiveness in the field ministry. In addition, one school overseer has found that as a result of the provision for audience participation in Bible highlights, more are keeping to the schedule of Bible reading. Concerning Assignment No. 2, many brothers have commented favorably on the benefits of focusing on the material without preparing an introduction and conclusion. Those assigned this part are now concentrating more attentively on improving their reading skills.—1 Tim. 4:13.

[3] **All Can Benefit:** Commenting at meetings can be a delight. (Prov. 15:23) Having the oral review questions in advance enables us to prepare for and participate in the review readily. Additionally, with the January 1, 2004, issue of *The Watchtower,* highlights from Bible books have appeared that correspond with our assigned reading in the Theocratic Ministry School. These articles have helped many to make upbuilding comments during Bible highlights.

[4] Everyone enrolled in the school has the special privilege of preparing and delivering assignments. All of us can benefit from the school overseer's positive comments from the platform. Individual students profit further from points of counsel that he may offer in private after the meeting. The exercises featuring speech qualities at the end of each chapter of the book *Benefit From Theocratic Ministry School Education* provide additional help.

[5] As practical and Scriptural ideas are brought to your attention during and after the school, make note of these in your copy of the *Ministry School* textbook. Reflect on what you have learned, and consider how this aspect of divine education is enhancing your spirituality.

## Benefit From the Video *No Blood —Medicine Meets the Challenge*

How well-informed are you about the options that are available in the field of bloodless medicine? Do you understand what some of the transfusion alternatives are and how they work? Watch this video, and test your knowledge with the following questions.—Note: Because the video includes brief surgical scenes, parents should use discretion in deciding whether their young children should see it.

**(1)** What is the main reason why Jehovah's Witnesses refuse blood transfusions, and where is that principle found in the Bible? **(2)** When it comes to medical care, what do we desire? **(3)** What basic right do patients have? **(4)** Why is it rational and responsible to reject blood transfusions? **(5)** When severe blood loss occurs, what two urgent priorities do doctors have? **(6)** What health risks are associated with blood transfusions? **(7)** What are some of the tools that surgeons have available to them to minimize blood loss during surgery? **(8)** What should you want to be informed about regarding any transfusion alternative? **(9)** Can serious and complicated surgeries be performed without the use of blood transfusions? **(10)** What are a growing number of physicians willing to do for Jehovah's Witnesses, and what may eventually become the standard of care for all patients?

Acceptance of any treatments presented in the video is an individual, conscientious decision.—See the June 15, 2004, *Watchtower,* pp. 22-4, 29-31, and the October 15, 2000, *Watchtower,* pp. 30-1.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **December:** *The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived.* As an alternative offer, you may use *My Book of Bible Stories, The Bible—God's Word or Man's?,* or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth.* **January:** Any book published prior to 1990 that the congregation may have in stock. If you do not have any of these in stock, please check if nearby congregations have a surplus of older publications on hand that you can use. Congregations that do not have older books may offer *Worship the Only True God.* **February:** *Draw Close to Jehovah.* If this publication is not available, you may use the *Creation* book (large or small size) or the *Revelation Climax* book as an alternative offer. **March:** *Keep on the Watch!* Where genuine interest is shown, offer the *Knowledge* book, making a special effort to start Bible studies.

■ The cover series "Understanding Your Doctor" appearing in the January 22, 2005, issue of *Awake!* is designed to help people to deal more understandingly with their physicians. However, the articles will no doubt be of interest to doctors themselves, since the series addresses why some physicians have been attracted to the Bible's message of hope. You may wish to order extra copies and make a special effort to give a copy to your doctor as well as to other health care professionals. Congregations should notify the branch at once of any increased orders for this issue.

■ The Memorial invitations for **2005** in the primary language of each congregation will soon be sent to the congregation. If other languages are spoken in your territory and you would like a supply of invitations in those languages, these should be requested as soon as possible on a *Literature Request Form* (S-14). A listing of the languages in which Memorial invitations are available will appear in the "Announcement to All Congregations," which is mailed each month. Please request only those languages needed for your territory.

■ Please note that the Memorial for the year **2006** will be on Wednesday, April 12, after sundown. This advance notice is given so that brothers may make necessary reservations or contracts for available halls when there are several congregations using the Kingdom Hall and other facilities must be found. In such instances, the elders should have an agreement with the management ensuring that there will be no disturbances from other activities in the building so that the Memorial observance can proceed in a peaceful and orderly manner.

■ Because of the importance of the Memorial, the body of elders should select one of the more qualified elders to be the speaker instead of simply taking turns or using the same brother every year. If there is an elder of the anointed who is able to give the talk, he should be selected.

■ Beginning the week of June 27, 2005, we will study *Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy!* at the Congregation Book Study.

## New Provision to Assist Us to Abstain From Blood

The Governing Body has approved combining the essential elements of the durable power of attorney (DPA) document and the *Advance Medical Directive/Release* card into a single legal document, which we shall refer to generally as a DPA card. A DPA card has been prepared for each state. The actual title of the DPA card varies from state to state.

You will need to fill out the DPA card for your state of residence only. The DPA card is valid indefinitely anywhere in the United States and will serve as a statement of your wishes when you travel internationally. In the future, you should fill out a new DPA card if (1) you need to make any changes to your DPA card, such as changing your wishes, health-care agents, addresses, and telephone numbers, or (2) your DPA card has been lost or destroyed.

The DPA card should be prayerfully considered and carefully filled out at home. However, before signing the card, it is important that the legal formalities be closely followed. For example, if your card says that two witnesses are required to see you sign, they should be present when you sign it. Book study overseers may periodically check with those who have not filled out new cards to see if assistance is needed.

Before folding the DPA card, make good-quality photocopies for your health-care agent, alternate health-care agent, and doctor as well as for your own records. You may also want to provide copies for other family members and the congregation secretary. Copies should be single-sided on standard-size (8 1/2″ x 11″) paper, with the DPA card centered on the page. The original DPA card, not a photocopy, should be kept on your person.

The *Identity Card* with the print date of 3/99 for unbaptized children of Witness parents has not changed. Parents should ensure that a card for each minor child is properly filled out and signed and that the child carries it at appropriate times.

Unbaptized publishers may adapt the language of the DPA card and *Identity Card* in order to write out health-care instructions for themselves and their children. The secretary should provide a DPA card for all newly baptized publishers during the year.

# Witnessing to Relatives—How?

1 What greater joy could we have than to enter the new world with our loved ones, united with them in worship of Jehovah! By our witnessing to relatives, this joyful prospect may become reality. To do so in a refreshing manner, however, requires discernment. A circuit overseer observed: “The best results are achieved by those who awaken curiosity in their relatives by witnessing in measured doses.” How might we do this?

2 **Awaken Their Curiosity:** Give careful forethought to how you might stir the interest of your relatives. (Prov. 15:28) What are their concerns? What challenges are they facing? Perhaps you could share an article or mention an appealing scripture on a subject that is of special interest to them. If your relatives do not live nearby, perhaps you can do this in a letter or by telephone. Without overwhelming them, sow seeds of truth, and look to Jehovah to make those seeds grow.—1 Cor. 3:6.

3 Jesus instructed a man from whom he had expelled many demons: “Go home to your relatives, and report to them all the things Jehovah has done for you and the mercy he had on you.” (Mark 5:19) Imagine the impression this must have made on his relatives! Although you may not experience anything quite so dramatic, likely your relatives have an interest in your activities or those of your children. Mentioning a talk you had in the Theocratic Ministry School, a convention you attended, a visit to Bethel, or a personal milestone might open the way for you to share with them something further about Jehovah and his organization.

4 **Be Discerning:** When witnessing to relatives, avoid telling them too much at once. Recalling the time when he began to study the Bible, one brother admitted: “I then showered my mother for hours on end with explanations about almost everything I had learned from the Bible, and this often led to arguments, especially with my father.” Even when a relative expresses interest in the Bible’s message, answer in a way that leaves the person wanting to know more. (Prov. 25:7) Always show respect, kindness, and patience, just as you would when speaking with strangers in the ministry.—Col. 4:6.

5 At one point, Jesus’ relatives thought he had lost his mind. (Mark 3:21) Later, however, some became believers. (Acts 1:14) If your initial efforts to share the truth with your relatives are not well received, do not give up. Circumstances and attitudes can change. Continue to look for another opportunity to share a point that may awaken their curiosity. You may have the joy of helping them start on the road to everlasting life. —Matt. 7:13, 14.

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1. Why is discernment needed when witnessing to relatives?
2. How can sincere interest in our relatives help us to awaken their curiosity?
3. How might the interest that our relatives have in us open the way for a witness?
4. What pitfalls should we avoid when witnessing to relatives?
5. What should we do if relatives do not respond favorably when we witness to them?

## What to Say About the Magazines

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**THE WATCHTOWER** ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH’S KINGDOM **Dec. 15**

“At this time of year, people around the world remember the birth of Jesus in a wide variety of ways. Did you know that Bible prophecy links the birth of Jesus with lasting peace? [Allow for response. Then read Isaiah 9:6, 7.] This magazine explains how that peace will be accomplished.”

**Awake! Dec. 22**

“Have you noticed that society seems to be placing more and more emphasis on how people look? [Allow for response.] This magazine discusses some of the dangers of becoming obsessed with beauty. It also highlights the value of the kind of beauty that matters most.” Read 1 Peter 3:3, 4.

**THE WATCHTOWER** ANNOUNCING JEHOVAH’S KINGDOM **Jan. 1**

“Most religions teach that people should love their neighbor. [Read Matthew 22:39.] Why, then, do you think that so many of the wars and conflicts in the world involve religion? [Allow for response.] This issue of *The Watchtower* examines the question, Can religion unite mankind?”

**Awake! Jan. 8**

“How would you answer this question? [Read question on cover. Then allow for response.] Earth’s resources are dwindling at an alarming rate. Yet, note this reassuring promise. [Read Psalm 104:5.] This issue of *Awake!* explains how our planet will soon be on the road to complete recovery.”